Man, 55, pleads guilty to sex abuse. PAGE 2
US: 11 of 27 reef fish species in Hawaii are overfished. PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

75¢

Saipan Tribune

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CHAMORRO FESTIVAL
File photo shows people lining up to purchase food from vendors at the Annual Chamorro Cultural Festival at the California State University-San Marcos. This year's festival will take place on March 25, 2017.
See story on Page 2

Kagman wells back in operation

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two wells in Kagman that supplies water to farms and ranches in the area are back in operation.

The water wells became inoperable early this year but are now back in full operation after being repaired.

Repairs for wells KG18 and KG20 were finally completed last week using local and federal funds.

Torres had vowed to provide better water services to Kagman's farmers and ranchers by repairing both water wells and to improve the water catchment system, water storage, and irrigation pathway.

Supporting farmers and ranchers is critical since it would protect all locally grown produce of the islands, he said.

"Kagman is home to over 50 farm plots, some of which are around one to two hectares in size, and accounts for a large portion of produce harvested on Saipan.

"Wells KG18 and KG20 provide upwards of 64,000 gallons of water per day to these farm plots. As a farmer myself, ensuring that our farmers get the resources they need to provide for their families and our community remains a

See KAGMAN on Page 4

'H-1B processing suspension covers all'

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The decision to temporarily suspend the premium processing of H-1B visa petitions also covers the CNMI.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services informed the public last week that they would briefly stop premium processing of petitions beginning April 3, 2017 everywhere in the U.S. That means petitions that used to take 15 days to process will now take up to three years. The suspension lasts six months and will start on April 3.

The suspension is not connected to President Donald J. Trump's executive orders regarding immigration and USCIS said the temporary suspension would allow them to clear their backlog of processing longstanding petitions.

"The temporary suspension will help us to reduce overall H-1B processing times. We will be able to process longstanding petitions, which we have currently been unable to process due to the high volume of incoming petitions and the significant surge in premium processing requests over the past few years," said USCIS in a statement.

See H-1B on Page 4

Tinian DPS struggles with manpower shortage

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Tinian Department of Public Safety is making do with only 13 police officers for its seven sections.

Tinian DPS director Juan Santos told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they are experiencing a manpower shortage as the Tinian DPS currently has only 13 police officers, down from 17 back in 2015.

» Only 13 cops for 7 sections

That's only 13 officers for the department's seven sections.

"To tell you the truth, we have been struggling with manpower," he said in a phone interview.

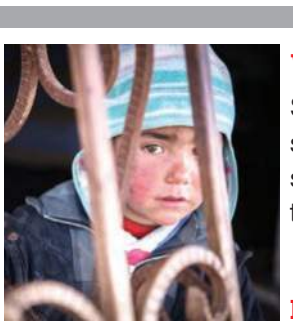
Santos is proud of the officers because some of them have two to three assignments.

"One officer would be my patrol shift supervisor while at the same time doing the sexual offender registry and

See DPS on Page 4

INSIDE

NATION
The Supreme Court is leaving the issue of transgender rights in schools to lower courts.
PAGE 15



WORLD
Syrian children show symptoms of "toxic stress" and are attempting self-harm.
PAGE 17

ENVIRONMENT
The key to a great garden? Look under your feet and start valuing your soil.
PAGE 18

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Local

8TH ANNUAL CHAMORRO CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Mariana Islands on display at Chamorro Festival

SAN DIEGO, California—The San Diego-based nonprofit group CHE'LU, or Chamorro Hands in Education Links Unity, will be celebrating its 8th Annual Chamorro Cultural Festival on March 25, 2017, at the California State University-San Marcos.

The festival is a free event with free parking.

The annual Chamorro cultural festival is a highly anticipated family-fun event, celebrating the arts, culture, customs and people of the Mariana Islands, which include Guam, Saipan, Rota, Tinian, and islands in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CCF is a unique day of celebration for Chamorros, uniting the indigenous people of the Marianas from around the world with music and cultural dance performances, educational workshops, cultural foods and a diverse array of products to accentuate the Chamorro in everyone.

This year's theme is "Ta Na' La'la' Gi Halom i Famagu'onta…i Lengguahita yan Kutturata" which translates to "Let it Live from Within Our Children…Our Language and Our Culture."

"The Chamorro Cultural Festival helps many of us Chamorros celebrate our unique culture and heritage with a vast array of workshops, arts and crafts and entertainment," said Danny Blas, chairman of the CHE'LU board of directors. "Every year this event grows and grows. The CCF has become the premier Chamorro event in the mainland away from the Marianas, and our team is very proud to be able to continue the work to preserve our culture, language and the Chamorro ways of life."

8th Annual Chamorro Cultural Festival dancers. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CSU-San Marcos festival site allows CHE'LU to continually improve the festival-goer experience by providing a spacious ground, protected parking, more seating areas and enhanced facilities, including free Wi-Fi and family-friendly restrooms.

CHE'LU is a nonprofit organization, created and sustained by volunteers in San Diego. It was established in 2005 to highlight the unique Chamorro culture and its indigenous people. Its mission statement says: "CHE'LU is dedicated to the Chamorro community by strengthening our native language, culture and health through education."

Some of the ways CHE'LU preserves the culture are through the programs we support. In particular we reach out to the greater community through our Sakman Chamorro project, an outrigger canoe project that returned pride to our community by reigniting our ancient seafaring traditions and our youth cultural music and dance programs.

Our entire board hopes you are able to celebrate with us in San Marcos on March 25, 2017. ***(PR)***

Man, 55, pleads guilty to sex abuse

A 55-year-old man arrested in September for allegedly sexually abusing a 6-year-old girl in Chalan Kanoa pleaded guilty yesterday as part of a plea deal.

Maintenance worker George Ramel Delos Santos pleaded guilty to sex abuse of a minor in the first degree. He will be sentenced on June 22, 2017 at 1:30pm.

The remaining charges of assault and battery and disturbing the peace were dropped.

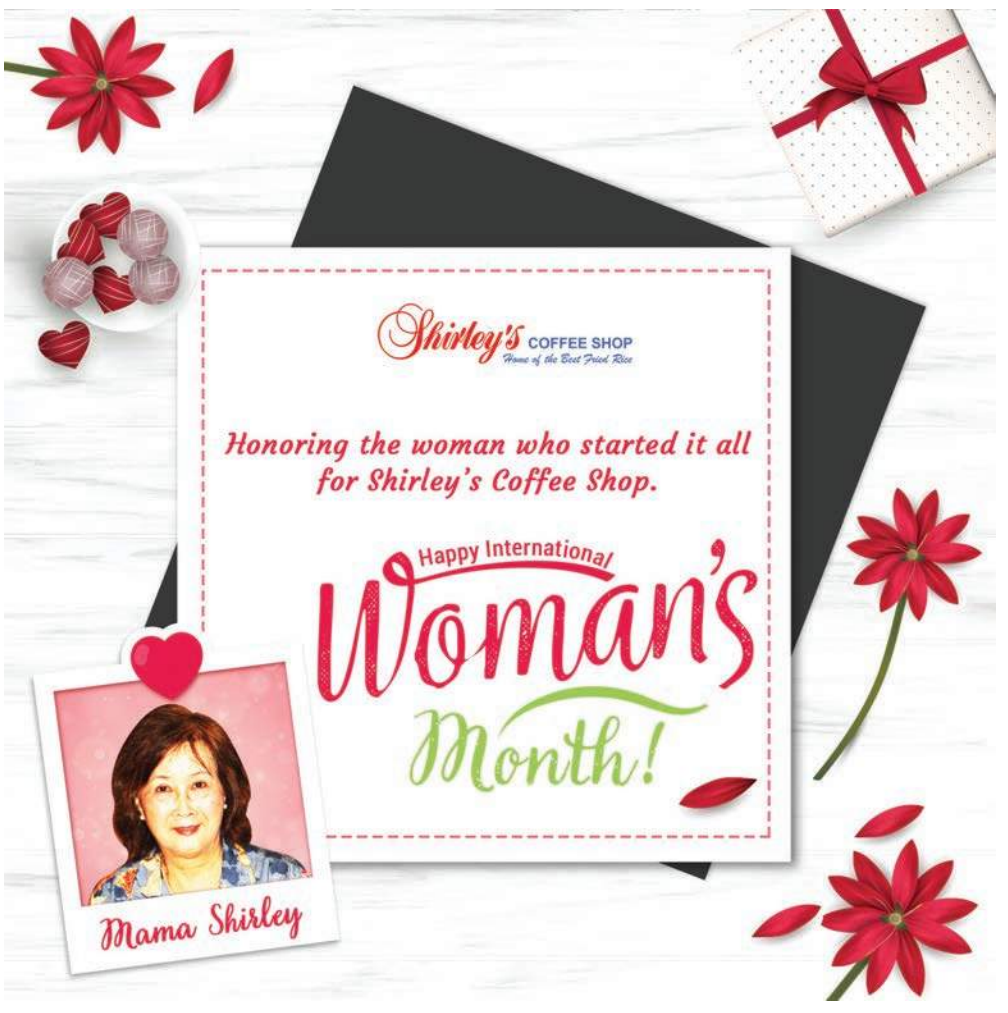
Attorney Cong Nie is the court-appointed counsel for Delos Santos. Assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub appeared for the government.

Delos Santos is accused of sexually abusing the girl on Aug. 28, 2016, on Saipan.

A police officer was dispatched to a public school last Aug. 29 for a reported sexual abuse case. According to the girl's father, there have been several instances when they could not find their daughter around the house and when they asked where she went, she would say she was at Delos Santos' room.

Last Aug. 28, the father again asked his daughter where was earlier. The girl said she was inside Delos Santos' room, where he touched her privates. The father reported the matter to a school official the next day.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja granted Delos Santos' request for a presentence investigation report. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***



Norton Lilly, ship's crew agree to drop claims vs M/V *Luta* owners

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A company and the crew of cargo ship M/V *Luta* have agreed to drop their claims against the vessels owners.

Lawyers Bruce Berline, David G. Banes, and William M. Fitzgerald filed in federal court a separate stipulation for dismissal with prejudice of the parties' claims against the owners of M/V *Luta*.

Berline is counsel for Norton Lilly International Inc., while Banes is counsel for the vessel's captain Michael Brochon and six other crewmembers. Fitzgerald is representing the ship's owners Luta Mermaid LLC, its president Abelina T. Mendiola, and members Deron T. Mendiola, and Fidel S. Mendiola III.

The lawyers requested the U.S. District Court for the NMI to dismiss the claims in its entirety.

Dismissal with prejudice means the claimants cannot re-open their case again.

As this developed, the ship's owners, through Fitzgerald, asked for a jury trial in Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto's lawsuit against them.

Yamamoto is suing Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, Luta Mermaid LLC, and the Mendiolas for allegedly refusing to pay back the $3.4 million that he put up for the vessel. The vessel was seized shortly after the U.S. Marshal Service arrested the ship last Oct. 25.

The ship's captain and crewmembers, along with Norton Lilly International, later intervened in Yamamoto's lawsuit.

The captain and the crew demanded payment of $183,648 in unpaid wages, while Norton Lilly sought payment for $131,801 in unpaid services.

Last Feb. 22, the court ordered the immediate release of the ship to Luta Mermaid LLC and the Mendiolas after Yamamoto reached a settlement deal with the vessel's custodian.

The court earlier determined that Yamamoto's relationship with the Mendiolas demonstrated that he was a joint venturer in M/V *Luta*.

Yamamoto's several other claims in the lawsuit are pending in court.

Fitzgerald previously disclosed that the owners of M/V *Luta* have reached a settlement agreement that requires them to pay over $600,000 to the three group of intervenors—the captain and six crew members, Long Consulting, and Norton Lilly.

‘AG’s duties in reviewing contracts needs clarification’

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) hopes to make clear the Office of the Attorney Generals’ duties and responsibilities when it comes to reviewing contracts of the CNMI government.

The first-term lawmaker has introduced House Bill 20-43 to define the AG’s obligations in representing the Executive Branch and its attached agencies, departments, and divisions.

A similar legislation—HB 19-133 or the AG Amendments Act of 2015—was introduced in the 19th Legislature to harmonize statutes defining the OAG’s authority with the constitutional requirement for the AG’s election.

Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) authored HB 19-133.

“Currently, the CNMI Constitution states that the elected AG shall be the chief legal officer for the CNMI government and legal adviser to the governor, departments, agencies [and others under the Executive Branch] but it did not stipulate the AG’s duties and powers or the restrictions on the office’s powers,” said Blanco.

HB 20-43, if signed into law by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, would give the sitting AG a free hand to run his office.

“Certain clauses in this bill gives the AG the independent authority to plan and submit its annual budget, organize the office, select, promote, demote employees outside of the Civil Service Commission umbrella, among others,” said Blanco.

“Finally, this bill intends to clarify and define the responsibilities and duties of the AG in the rules and regulations creation process and his/her representation of other government agencies to ensure the process is more efficient, responsive to today’s changing environment, and that I hope it avoids misunderstandings with the establishment of appropriate boundaries,” added Blanco.

HB 20-43’s purpose

Blanco said the OAG lacks the needed resources and personnel like the other agencies, departments, and divisions under the Executive Branch including public corporations and autonomous agencies.

“Recently [the OAG] has undergone a fundamental change from an appointed office to elected,” said Blanco.

One of the OAG’s responsibilities is providing legal advice to the CNMI government “but advice and representation should remain with their proper bounds.”

He pointed out that the CNMI government’s executive branch—its agencies, either directly under the Governor’s Office or autonomous along with departments, divisions, and public corporations—may seek legal advice from the OAG but has the option to not follow it.

“The AG may represent the CNMI government’s Executive [Branch] but this means the AG must represent their interests. The AG should not substitute his/her judgment for the judgment of his/her clients or otherwise interject himself/herself into matters of policy,” said Blanco.

He said that when the AG represents the Executive Branch, he or she speaks on its behalf to advance its interests, not to substitute his/her judgment for itself and not to make policy determinations.

“Clarifying and defining the AG’s duties and responsibilities in the rules and regulations creation process and his/her representation of the CNMI government will help make it more efficient, responsive, effective, and it will also help to avoid misunderstandings and establish appropriate boundaries.”

SSC scholarship applications available

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce’s goals are to promote and enable postsecondary education and to publicly acknowledge and reward the academic and extracurricular accomplishments of deserving students. For this reason, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce continues to award educational scholarships every June at its general membership meeting in the amount of $12,000.

The Educational Scholarship Fund offers a one-time monetary award in the following categories: Four high school scholarships, one college scholarship, and one Pellegrino Vocational scholarship.

As a former scholarship recipient states, “My first year at Barnard College/Columbia University has been euphoric as well as challenging, but I wouldn’t want my experience to be any other way. I wouldn’t have experienced this life-changing year if it weren’t for the Chamber of Commerce scholarship program. In comparison to the expenses of New York City, perhaps what I have received was not much. However, the grant was key in helping me fill up my Swiss-cheese-like financial aid package. Financial instability is arguably the most stressful thing any college student can endure, but I didn’t have to worry too much because the money I received from the Chamber of Commerce scholarship program alleviated the trouble.”

Hard copies of the Chamber scholarship applications are available at the Chamber office and will also be delivered to schools. Chamber scholarship applications are also available for download at its website: www.saipanchamber.com. Applicants are encouraged to complete the application and submit them on or before the deadline of 5pm, Wednesday, May 10, 2017, at the SCC office in the Marianas Business Plaza. Scholarships will be awarded at the monthly general membership meeting on June 7, 2017. For more information call the Chamber office at (670) 234-7150 or email coordinator2@saipanchamber.com. ***(SCC)***

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Imperial Pacific moves court to dismiss Tropical Gardens' lawsuit

The Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC yesterday moved the federal court to dismiss the lawsuit filed by Tropical Gardens Inc. over alleged failure to pay supply and installation services for plant materials at its Imperial Resort and Casino project in Garapan.

Imperial Pacific, which is doing business as Best Sunshine International, Ltd. though counsel Robert J. O'Connor, asserted that plaintiff Tropical Gardens has failed to join parties necessary and indispensable to this court action under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

In Imperial Pacific's affirmative defenses, O'Connor pointed out that any injuries or damages allegedly sustained by Tropical Gardens were caused solely by the conduct of third persons, entities, or parties for whose conduct Best Sunshine is not responsible.

O'Connor said any injuries suffered or damages allegedly sustained by plaintiff were caused solely by plaintiff's own breaches of contract or inactions, and not by the actions or omissions by Best Sunshine.

The lawyer said the complaint fails to state a claim against Best Sunshine in that it fails to allege that Tropical Gardens has complied with all of the terms and conditions of the contract.

O'Connor also stated that Tropical Gardens acted as a volunteer with respect to the costs it alleges it suffered as damages, and is therefore precluded from recovery of any such damages under the voluntary payment doctrine.

In Imperial Pacific's answer to the complaint, O'Connor stated, among other things, that Best Sunshine admits that it submitted an invoice for $236,522, but as to all other allegations in that specific paragraph in the complaint, Best Sunshine is without sufficient information to admit or deny, and on that basis denies these allegations are true.

Tropical Gardens claimed in that paragraph that in early November 2016, and because Tropical Gardens had nearly exhausted its cash reserves, the company submitted an invoice for $236,522 to Imperial Pacific.

Tropical Gardens, through counsel Daniel Guidotti, is suing Imperial Pacific International, which is doing business as Best Sunshine International, and 10 unnamed co-defendants, for breach of contract, promissory estoppel, and unjust enrichment.

Guidotti asked the court to hold Imperial Pacific and co-defendants liable to pay the company money sufficient to compensate for lost profits and out-of pocket expenses under the supply and installation contracts.

As a result of non-payment, Tropical Gardens allegedly released more than half of its workers a few days before Christmas 2016, used all of its cash reserves, halted its performance under the supply purchase order and the installation bid, and incurred taxes and other debts that the company cannot pay.

To date, the lawyer said, Imperial Pacific has not repaid Tropical Gardens for any sums that the latter expended for those services for phoenix palms. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Naval Base Guam hosts US/Japan ships for Multi-Sail 2017

A bird's-eye view of Apra Harbor, U.S. Naval Base Guam.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SANTA RITA, Guam— Seven naval surface combatants assigned to the U.S. Navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) arrived in-port to Apra Harbor, U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG), March 1 and 2 prior to the start of the bilateral exercise, Multi-Sail 2017 (MS-17), led by Commander, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 15.

"Naval Base Guam is a conduit for maritime power," said Capt. Hans Sholley, commanding officer of NBG. "Apra Harbor is a major contributor to our ability to sustain the fleet in the Indo-Asia-Pacific. We are excited for another opportunity to host these ships and demonstrate our ability to support our Navy's forward deployed operations here in Guam."

The ship composition included four forward deployed U.S. Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers, one Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser, and two JMSDF destroyers.

MS-17 aims to enhance interoperability between the U.S. and Japanese forces. The U.S. and JMSDF will conduct combined operations in the waters off Guam, exercising a wide range of capabilities and demonstrating the inherent flexibility of the combined forces.

The lessons learned from exercises like MS-17 will assist the U.S. and Japan in continuing to develop regional capabilities that provide a full range of options to succeed in defense of their interests and those of their allies and partners around the world, as well as ensure stability and security throughout the Indo-Asia-Pacific. ***(PR)***

Professor wants more college classes taught in Hawaiian

HILO, Hawaii (AP)—A University of Hawaii professor is working to get an entire curriculum at the university taught in Hawaiian to supplement the language courses taught to children across the state.

About 3,000 students in preschool through high school are involved in Hawaiian language immersion programs statewide, associate professor Larry Kimura told The *Hawaii Tribune-Herald*.

"We're trying to convince our state — the University of Hawaii is part of the state — that we need to continue Hawaiian native education at the college level as well," Kimura said.

He said having college courses such as math and chemistry taught in Hawaiian would benefit students and help make Hawaiian one of two official languages of the state.

Kimura discussed his plans this week at the He Olelo Ola Hilo Field Study, a two-day gathering of people from around the globe who are trying to save indigenous languages. Attendees visited Hawaiian language immersion classes on Monday and Tuesday to learn how they can incorporate the Big Island programs into their own schools.

Participants came from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the mainland, including from states such as Arizona, Minnesota, New Mexico, Alaska and California.

Kimura said they learned how to deal with "new concepts — in a language that has been sleeping for quite a while."

"It's not only about traditional things," he said. "The hardest thing is understanding how our traditions and laws are going to transition into today."

The field study participants are hoping their efforts save indigenous languages and the information passed down through the languages with each passing generation.

"It really shows that when a dedicated small group of people comes together for the language with purpose, great things are possible — and great things are happening," said Victoria Wells of the Nuuchaknulth Nation, indigenous people from the Canadian Pacific Coast.

KAGMAN

From Page 1

personal priority of my administration," added Torres.

Land and Natural Resources Secretary Richard B. Seman said the two wells' motors and submersible pumps were replaced and new ones were installed.

"[DLNR] remains committed to serving the farmers in Kagman and in the CNMI. More technical and specialized services will be provided in the coming months," said Seman, who added a new voltage control monitor overloading was also installed.

Division of Agriculture's Manuel Tenorio said the two water wells would be of great help since some of the farms and ranches in the area are slightly elevated.

"The restoration of KG18 last Thursday would not satisfy the needs of the Kagman farmers alone due to the inclined elevation of the western plots. The additional capacity of KG20 provides sufficient water pressure to extend water services to those plots," added Tenorio.

CNMI County Farm Service Agency Committee chair Ramon B. Camacho thanked the Torres administration for the repairs. He said wells that function properly are crucial to farmers and ranchers' daily operations, especially in Kagman.

"KG18 and KG20 have been in and out of service for awhile. These submersible pumps continue to be replaced every two to three years due to the immense load of water they are tasked to transport," said Camacho. "But I am glad that they are now fixed so that our farmers and ranchers will be able to supply their farms [and ranches] with ample water."

H-1B

From Page 1

Premium processing is a service offered by USCIS and the Department of Homeland Security where processing time of H-1B petitions takes only 15 days. Submitting a completed and signed I-907 form, and paying $1,225 is the process for applying for the premium petition.

Thirty-two individuals in the CNMI had been approved for an H-1B visa for fiscal year 2016. The CNMI and Guam, however, are not covered by the numerical cap for H-1B visa applications based on Public Law 110-229 or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008.

CNRA was implemented in 2009 and would have ended in 2014 if not for a five-year extension. Foreign workers admitted to the H-1B and H-2B visa class in the CNMI and Guam are exempted from the numerical limitation.

USCIS, in fiscal year 2016, approved 32 H-1B applications in the CNMI. All H-1B applications received before April 3 will still be processed and would not be affected by the blanket delay.

It is not yet known how would the CNMI be fully affected by the temporary suspension, especially for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., which is trying to apply some of their medical staff in the H-1B visa category.

The CNMI and Guam have been experiencing labor issues, with the latter encountering problems with the numerical limit of the CW-1 visa program.

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (D-MP) had filed House Resolution 339, which hopes to increase the CW-1 numerical cap to 15,000 only in 2017. HR 339 is awaiting action in the U.S. Senate after passing the House early this year.

Addressing the CNMI's labor and immigration issues is also part of the 902 report agreed on by both the Commonwealth and federal government panels. The report was transmitted to the U.S. Congress this January.

DPS

From Page 1

juvenile," he said.

Some of those who left the department just wanted to relocate to the U.S. mainland.

"They didn't do anything wrong," he said.

Santos disclosed that five police cadets from Tinian will be joining the police academy on Saipan starting this Monday, March 13.

"It's going to help me big time," said Santos.

The five prospective additional officers would give Tinian the momentum to move forward, after the police academy's graduation before or after this August, he said.

He still intends, however, to keep asking for more officers in the budget.

US: 11 of 27 reef fish species in Hawaii are overfished

HONOLULU (AP)—U.S. officials say the first-ever assessment of Hawaii's reef fish shows that 11 of 27 species are experiencing some level of overfishing.

Researchers with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center announced in a statement Monday that 11 species including ulua, five surgeonfishes, two goatfishes, and three parrotfishes are being overfished.

Scientists say the most susceptible species are those that live the longest and are popular local food sources.

NOAA officials say they collected information on fish size, maximum age, growth rates and maturity and compared the results with established guidelines to present fishery managers with options for future sustainability.

Reef fish support local tourism and fishing economies and are important to Native Hawaiian culture and the health of the overall ocean ecosystem.

CUC board to undergo training

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board members and key managers are set to undergo financial water and wastewater management training with the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality next Tuesday at the corporation's conference room.

CUC, which plays a crucial role in the supply and the management of water throughout the CNMI, would be trained on the financial aspect of water and wastewater management, in coordination with BECQ safe drinking water branch manager Joe Kaipat.

Glenn Barnes and Heather Himmelberger of the Environmental Finance Center Network will conduct the training. Barnes is a project director for the EFCN while Himmerlberger was a director of the Southwest Environmental Finance Center in 2013.

The training would be tackling many different topics such as short and long-term issues facing water facilities, the importance of the manager's respective water systems, the roles and responsibilities of board members, managers, and operators in relation to water systems, efficient communication between the board and staff, and cost reduction opportunities CUC could utilize. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

QUICK RESPONSE

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig hands over the key of the quick response vehicle to deputy commissioner Denis Mendiola of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Rota. The vehicle was one of three vehicles recently purchased for quick response. DFEMS Rota is very thankful to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, DFEMS Commissioner Clyde Norita, and to all who contributed in making the vehicle possible for Rota.

Saipan to host Lions Clubs convention this Saturday

Lions Clubs International District 204 will hold its convention at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort this Saturday, March 11, from 9am to 3pm. It will be followed by dinner.

Members will learn more about Lions Clubs International, as it celebrates its 100th year of service in 2017.

Melvin Jones founded the organization in Chicago on June 7, 1917.

Millions of participants worldwide are expected to attend the Lions Clubs International convention in various countries around the world.

Lion Club members from Guam will be joining the convention on Saipan, headed by centennial district governor Linda Tolan, first vice district governor/district governor-elect Arturo Navarro, immediate past district governor Daniel Yang, administrator/global membership team coordinator Monito Co, past district governor Herbie Perez, who will conduct the training, along with 29 members from different clubs in Guam.

Guam has 16 Lion Clubs while the CNMI has five: the Saipan Fil-Am Lions Club, Saipan Marianas LC, Saipan Unity LC, Saipan Alliance LC, and Tinian Marianas LC.

"It's easy to be a Lions Club member. One only needs to have the heart to serve and it's purely volunteer work, as members pay dues that go to the Lions Clubs International funding, which is used to fund recovery efforts after disasters and calamities, projects for engaging the youth, sharing the vision, protecting the environment and relieving hunger around the world," region chair Ladyvir Canape said.

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization. Its 1.4 million members are dedicated to bettering the quality of life for the handicapped, the poor, the sick and the aged. The motto of Lions Clubs International is "We serve."

For more details about Lions Clubs, call Canape at 989-2545, zone chair Mario Mayuga at 285-1021, or Saipan Fil-Am LC president Annamae Adaza at 483-5237. ***(PR)***

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Santos takes over NI mayoral post

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Vicente Cruz Santos Jr. formally took over the Northern Islands mayoral post after being sworn in by acting governor Victor B. Hocog on Monday at the Governor's Office's on Capital Hill.

Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Luis John Castro, who was the acting Northern Islands mayor following the former mayor's death, and Santos' wife Rita were present to witness the oath-taking ceremony.

Santos replaced the late mayor Francisco Jerome Kaipat Aldan, who died on Feb. 18 and was laid to rest more than a week later. He was 43 years old and was survived by his mother Clotilde, spouse Norma, and children Celing, Zachary, Zasha, Zavannah, and Zode.

Hocog assured Santos that he has the full backing of the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for the benefit of the people of the Northern Islands.

"Gov. Torres and I stand ready to work with you as you assume the mayorship. …I ask for your cooperation to continue the valuable work and programs that late mayor Aldan started. Be assured of our administration's support. We trust you will treat as paramount no less the utmost interests of our Northern Islands residents."

Santos, who ran as an independent candidate in the 2014 mayoral elections, lost to Aldan, who was fielded by the local Republican Party. Only a margin of 33 votes separated the two candidates but were enough to give Aldan the mayoralty post.

Santos filed an election protest after losing the election to Aldan, saying the latter is not a Northern Islands resident and that there were illegal votes cast. He lost the election contest.

NMI officials are hoping Aldan's replacement as Northern Islands mayor, in this case Santos, would continue his programs, especially the planned homesteading program on the island of Pagan and opposing any bombing activity by the United States military.

Pagan is one of the 10 islands that compose the Municipality of the Northern Islands, shards of rocks scattered in an area of more than 500 square kilometers in the Western Pacific. People living on Pagan Island were forcibly evacuated when its volcano erupted in May 1981.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Vicente Cruz Santos Jr., right, signs the document formalizing his post as the new Northern Islands mayor while acting governor Victor B. Hocog looks on.

Woman gets 10-day prison term for beating boyfriend

A woman accused of punching and hitting her boyfriend with a set of keys has pleaded guilty as part of a plea deal and was slapped with a 10-day prison term.

Mary Kelly Alfred, 46, pleaded guilty last week to disturbing the peace.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo sentenced Alfred to six months in prison, all suspended except for 10 days.

Alfred was given credit for 10 days of time served. That means she will no longer serve further jail time.

Alfred was placed on probation for one year and ordered to pay a $25 fine.

Alfred was accused of hitting the victim on Oct. 16, 2016, using a bunch of keys, causing a laceration on his right eyebrow. The incident happened outside her house in San Vicente early Sunday morning.

Alfred, 45, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Police said the victim was taken by paramedics to the Commonwealth Healthcare Center for treatment of 3- to 4-centimeter laceration on the eyebrow.

Police investigation showed that prior to the incident, the victim was sleeping inside a car outside the house of Alfred in San Vicente.

Alfred later called her boyfriend twice at 1:50am, but the boyfriend did not answer as he was tired. Alfred opened the door of the car and threw a pillow at him. When the boyfriend got down, Alfred allegedly punched him twice on the head, then swung a set of keys at his right eyebrow. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Half-day today at KHS

Kagman High School will have a half-day session today, March 8, 2017, due to Accreditation Standard 4 meeting for KHS faculty and staff. Classes will be dismissed at 12:30pm. For any questions or concerns, contact the KHS main office at 237 -3187. ***(PR)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association, Inc. support meeting on Thursday, March 9, 2017, starting at 5:30pm at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. Guest speaker Dr. Ji Kim, a gastroenterologist at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., will speak on colorectal cancer prevention and early detection. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

NMTI's culinary arts class to begin

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute's 2017 spring culinary arts class will officially kick off on March 21, 2017, from 4pm to 8pm. Courses are twice weekly (Tuesdays and Wednesdays for four months). There is also a mandatory orientation on March 14, 2017, at 4pm at NMTI's Lower Base campus.

NMTI's registration process is year-round. Once the minimum enrollment threshold is met for a class to be considered, NMTI opens up a class so that students may be afforded the opportunity upon showing their interest for a certain trade. For more information regarding this course or other courses, contact Norisa SN Camacho, registrar, at (670) 235-6684 or email nmti@pticom.com. ***(NMTI)***

Ironman 70.3 Saipan

The first-ever Ironman 70.3 Saipan organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority will be held on Saturday, March 11, 2017. Drivers are advised to exercise caution and follow all traffic officer directions, and dog owners are reminded to secure their pets along the race route from Pau Pau Beach north to Marpi and south along Beach Road to San Antonio. The start and finish line at Pau Pau Beach will be closed to vehicle traffic on race day from 5am to 3pm. For more information, contact the Marianas Visitors Authority. ***(PR)***

Veterans invited to town hall meeting

The Veterans Affairs Honolulu Regional Office and VA Pacific Island Healthcare System will be hosting a town hall meeting for veterans, service-members, their families, and survivors to discuss VA benefits.

The town hall meeting will take place on Thursday, March 9, 2017, from 1pm to 2:30pm at the Kanoa Resort, Seaside Hall.

The town hall is one of many VA is holding around the country. The meetings are intended to provide veterans, their families and survivors a wide-open forum and for VA officials to hear directly from beneficiaries as a step toward improvement and to rebuild trust among veterans. ***(PR)***

Department of Veterans Affairs
TOWN HALL MEETING

Hosted by Honolulu Veterans Affairs Regional Office Director Karen M. Gooden & Veterans Affairs Pacific Island Health Care System Associate Director Tonia J. Bagby & Nurse Executive Kate Hansen-Schmitt

WHO: *Veterans, their families and Survivors, and any organization or individual who works with or on behalf of Veterans*

WHAT: *Town Hall Meeting*

WHERE: *Kanoa Resort, Seaside Hall, Kanoa Beach Road*

WHEN: *March 9, 2017, 1:00pm to 2:30pm*

WHY: *To share information, hear feedback from customers and to answer questions on VA health care and benefits.*

For more information please contact Aiko Shibuya, Public Affairs Officer, Honolulu VA Regional Office at (808) 433-0501 or Amy Rohlfs, Public Affairs Officer, Veterans Affairs Pacific Island Health Care System, at (808) 208-5544.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

ROBERT T. TORRES, ESQ.
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: 234-7859
Fax: 234-5750

Attorney for Petitioner Armando Villafuerte

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ANGELINA BORJA PEREDO aka ANGELINA P. RIOS, Deceased.) CIVIL ACTION NO.: 26-0252) SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATRIX

TO: THE SURVIVING HEIRS OF ANGELINA BORJA PEREDO aka ANGELINA P. RIOS:

The foregoing Summons/Notice of Hearing is served upon you by publication to notify you that on **April 20, 2017, at 9:00 a.m.**, a hearing will be held before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho on Petitioner Armando Villafuerte's Petition for Letters of Administration and Appointment of Administratrix in the above-styled matter, at the Superior Court for the CNMI, Guma Hustisia, on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The attorney for Armando Villafuerte is Robert T. Torres, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Dated this 29th day of December, 2016.

/s/ Clerk of Court
Deputy Clerk of Court

CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 502607 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-1615
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner Emilia T. Williams

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MOSES D. WILLIAMS, Deceased.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0183) NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR DECREE OF FINAL DISTRIBUTION) Date: March 30, 2017) Time: 9:00 am) Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE MOSES D. WILLIAMS OR HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **Emilia T. Williams** has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue a Decree of Final Distribution in the Estate of Moses D. Williams, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is **Charity R. Hodson, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950.**

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the above indicated date and time at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Dated this 21st day of February, 2017.

/s/ Clerk of Court
Deputy Clerk of Court

Nurses receives vaccination storage training

Safety plays an important role in protecting individuals and the community from vaccine-preventable diseases. Vaccine quality is the shared responsibility of everyone, from the time vaccine is manufactured until it is administered and this is where proper storage and handling plays a huge role.

Marianas Health Home Care is dedicated to providing quality and experienced health care solutions throughout the Pacific region.

Employees of Marianas Health Home Care, in cooperation with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Division of Public Health, went through an immunization program training last Feb. 23, 2017.

Jeffrey Sablan and Arvin Deleon Guerrero from the CHCC DPH Immunization Program, together with Jeremy Sasamoto, immunization program manager, and Peter Judicpa, regional public health adviser of immunization at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, spearheaded the training with the Marianas Health Home Care staff learning about "vaccination storage."

Lectures about proper storage and transporting of vaccines through a process called "cold chain," together with a hands-on training on the equipment that was provided by the guest speakers and tips on incorporating the vaccination process in scheduled home visits were given out during the event.

The training would enable Marianas Health to keep homebound patients up-to-date with their immunization shots. It would also help carry out Marianas Health's initial vision and mission together with the community and the patient's health care needs to improve the quality of life, and the quality of healthcare services in the CNMI. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Far left, Jeffrey Sablan (immunization vaccine specialist) and Hilma Castro (Marianas Health Home Care, quality assurance assistant) pose for a group photo with Hervin Jacinto (MHS, quality assurance officer), Peter Judicpa (regional public health adviser of immunization at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), Arvin Deleon Guerrero (Immunization VFC coordinator), Jeremy Sasamoto (immunization program manager), and Marianas Health Home Care nurses.

CNMI Supreme Court reverses trial court

On Feb. 23, 2017, the CNMI Supreme Court reversed the decision of the trial court's order stemming from a traffic case in 2014.

In this case, the trial court found that a police officer had no reasonable suspicion to stop Hank Pua Arurang's car for a traffic violation and suppressed all evidence as a result of the stop.

Attorney General Edward Manibusan said: "We are encouraged by the Supreme Court's decision that gives police officers guidance and confidence in enforcing the traffic laws of the Commonwealth."

On June 28, 2014, a police officer stopped Arurang for failing to travel in a single lane. Arurang was charged with failure to drive on the right side of the highway, reckless driving, and driving under the influence. Arurang moved to suppress evidence obtained during the traffic stop and argued that the officer did not have reasonable suspicion to stop him.

Arurang testified that upon making a right turn onto the road leading to the Marianas Business Plaza, he swerved left and out of the right lane to avoid hitting a dog that was on his lane. The Supreme Court conducted its review of the case based on an "overarching issue—whether the trial court erred in suppressing evidence discovered during the traffic stop." ***(OAG)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-17-017
KOBLERVILLE SUMP ABANDONMENT AND WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Koblerville Sump Abandonment and Water System Improvements in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of new installation of new transmission and distribution lines, cut and cap of existing lines and tapping to existing mains. The work also includes the installation of air relief valves, new sample taps, and asphalt pavement restoration, etc. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **220 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **March 8, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "*CUC-IFB-17-017, Koblerville Sump Abandonment and Water System Improvements"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 23rd, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 10, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician – marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org and to Travis Spaeth, CUC Project Engineer via email address travis.spaeth@cucgov.org .

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

WANTED

NEWS REPORTER

The *Saipan Tribune* is looking for a FULL-TIME news reporter.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Above average writing skills and can work within deadlines;
- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player;
- Computer literate;
- With photography skills;
- Must have reliable means of transportation.

If you have what it takes to be part of a dynamic team, email your résumé and samples of your work to editor@saipantribune.com. You may also drop it off at the *Saipan Tribune* office on the second floor of the JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. ON-ISLAND HIRES PREFERRED.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.
Qualified women, minorities, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

The CNMI Women's Association and the Office of Special Assistant for Women's Affairs hold a Day of Prayer at the Kristo Rai Church this past Sunday.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Women celebrate a Day of Prayer

March is Women's History Month in a lot of countries, including the United States. In the CNMI, March is Women's Month and encompasses a broad spectrum of women's issues and participation in all aspects of society.

As part of a monthlong lineup of activities to celebrate and honor women's contributions, a Day of Prayer was held at the Kristo Rai Church this past Sunday. Women gathered in solidarity to offer prayers and celebrate the interconnectedness of all women, regardless or race, culture, age and denomination. The gathering aimed to bring together women in a yearly Day of Prayer, as well as in closer fellowship, understanding and service-oriented action throughout the year.

The 2017 CNMI Women's Month is spearheaded by the CNMI Women's Association and the Office of Special Assistant for Women's Affairs.

The International Women's Day theme is "Be Bold for Change." The CNMI has adopted "Empowering Women as Leaders of Change" as its theme for 2017.

As part of this call for action, women are encouraged to be bold for change, to become aware of their talents and use them in service of their island community.

In honor of International Women's Day, the community is invited to a Meet-and-Greet luncheon today, March 8, from 8am to 2pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan SandCastle. This event is sponsored by vice speaker Janet Maratita and Rep. Alice Igitol. There is no cost to attend.

Later this evening, the Office of the Special Assistant for Women's Affairs is sponsoring a Meet & Greet dinner from 6pm to 10pm at the Garapan Central Park. Everyone is invited and welcome to join the women in our community as they listen to presenters share stories and talk about issues affecting women of the CNMI. There will be food and live entertainment in between presentations and exhibits.

For more information and to RSVP, contact Geraldine Sebaklim, outreach coordinator, at 664-2659, 989-4561, or by email at geraldine.sebaklim@gov.mp. ***(With Kimberly Butista)***

'Shamrock & Roll' at St. Patrick's Day bash

The Saipan Young Professionals will be hosting "Shamrock & Roll," a St. Patrick's Day-themed mixer, at Franken Brau, Inc. in San Antonio.

"We are promoting SYP to our audience of young professionals and entrepreneurs within this community. We hope that our event will provide a comfortable setting where the SYP team can speak with interested individuals personally regarding our involvement, aspirations and foster meaningful connections. We especially would like to thank our host, Bruno Doestch of Franken Brau, for allowing us this opportunity to have our mixer there. We enjoy our strong relationship with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and our accessibility to its membership," said Beau Tomokane, Delta Air Lines operations service manager and SYP co-chair.

The entrance fee for the event is $10 per person, which includes one free beverage from select beers, one raffle ticket for a chance to win some fun prizes, and free appetizers while supplies last.

The proceeds of the event will go to upcoming SYP outreach programs and events planned for this year.

If you are interested in purchasing a ticket visit the office of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce on the third floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite #315 or call (670) 234-7150 for more information.

The SYP, an official committee of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, is a group of young professionals with a common goal to network and engage peers and to make a positive difference.

We recognize the need to develop young professionals throughout Saipan to be involved, to recognize important issues and to discuss solutions that will benefit the island we call home. We also strive to promote community involvement and opportunities that will empower our young professionals to become prospect leaders.

If you are interested in joining the SYP committee or for more information contact (670) 234-7150 or email administrator@saipanchamber.com. ***(SYP)***

Allison graduates from basic military training

U.S. Air Force airman Ryan L. Allison recently graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Allison

Allison completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Allison is the son of Debra-Ann Rosario and nephew of Jennifer and Kimo-John Rosario, all of Saipan. He is also the cousin of Joseph-Kimo Mafnas.

The airman graduated in 2016 from Marianas High School. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-DCAA/HPO-097 (A-C)

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 22, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) PICK UP TRUCKS (4DRS,), PURCHASE OF A CLASS "I" AND A CLASS "D" VEHICLE FOR THE DCCA – HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-DCAA/HPO-098 – CIF ROTA

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 22, 2017 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A 4X4 PICK-UP TRUCK (4DRS.) FOR THE DCCA – HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE – ROTA BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-DCAA/HPO-099 – CIF TINIAN

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 22, 2017 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A 4X4 PICK-UP TRUCK (4DRS.) FOR THE DCCA – HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE – TINIAN BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-DLNR/DFW (BTS)-103 CIF TINIAN

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 07, 2017 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A 4X4 PICK UP TRUCK (CREW CAB/FOUR (4) DOORS) FOR THE DLNR, DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE, BROWN TREE SNAKE PROGRAM, TINIAN BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70.30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RICHARD B. SEMAN
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-NMHC-101

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 22, 2017 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A 4X4 PICK-UP TRUCK (CREW CAB) FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
CORPORATE DIRECTOR, NMHC

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S

SCS names STEM winners

Saipan Community School named its STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Fair winners last month.

Fourth grader Jii Lee topped the elementary division with her "Don't Get Swelled" project, while winning the junior high category was seventh grader Jason Sablan with his "Quantifying Electrolytes" submission.

Aside from the overall elementary and junior high winners, SCS also chose the Top 3 winners in each grade level.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Winners of Saipan Community School's 2017 STEM Fair pose with principal Amanda Dunn and science and math teacher T.J. Van.

Joining Lee in the winners' circle in fourth grade were second place Irene Kim ("Nail Polish Quality vs. Price") and third place Soledad Sablan ("Counting Steps").

The fifth grade winners were first place Camille Sablan with her "Best Power To Grow" concept followed by Olivia Huang's "Brand New Pennies For Sale" and Paul William Camacho-Deleon Guerrero's (Leaf Growth), who came in second and third, respectively.

Moon Zeng's "The Speed of Data" topped the STEM Fair in Grade 7, while Tina Zhen's "What Did You Egg-spect?" and Sukey Wu's "Ice Into Water" finished second and third.

Other winners in eighth grade were Puti'on Palacios Camacho and Maxine Rabago whose "Duel Fuel" and "Does Font Style Affect Memory" came in second and third, respectively.

SCS principal Amanda Dunn lauded all the winners and participants: "I am so very impressed with the hard work our SCS students brought forth in this year's science fair projects. It was a great opportunity for our students to develop positive attitudes about themselves and their work. I enjoyed seeing our students take pride in their projects as they spoke about them."

The judges of the 2017 SCS Stem Fair were Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality scientists Mallory Muna and Katie Graziano and Department of Lands and Division of Fish & Wildlife biologist Trey Dunn. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following vacant position:

(3) General Maintenance Worker
Qualification: 2 years experience as a general maintenance worker in repairing or replacing defective equipment, parts, using hand tools and power tools and re-assemble equipment is required. Must be able to work independently. Must be able to carry and lift up to 35 pounds. Must have a valid driver's license. Able to work a flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

Application forms may be obtained and submitted to our Security Office located on the South Wing of Fiesta Resort & Spa. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Friday, March 17, 2017.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-019

GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR CUC WATER & WASTEWATER FACILITIES, SAIPAN

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms capable of providing Ground Maintenance Services for CUC Water and Wastewater facilities in Saipan, in compliance with USEPA inspection and sanitary survey requirements.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A mandatory pre-bid conference followed by a site visit is scheduled for **March 2, 2017** at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Saipan, to ensure prospective bidders are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions.

CUC will award a contract to more than one firm for said services, based on bids for "Service Section" pursuant to Scope-of-Work.

One (1) Original and Seven (7) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-17-019, Ground Maintenance Services for CUC Water & Wastewater Facilities, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on March 17, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bids shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 6, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email — manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Gary Byrd, CUC Water & Wastewater Division Manager via email-gary.byrd@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Procurement Technician, via email–marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-020

CORAL TREE AVENUE, GARAPAN SEWER LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT (S-11-017)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement of sewer line in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general of the replacement of asbestos cement pipe (ACP) in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The Project is to replace approximately ± 190 LF of existing 12-inch ACP, 6-inch service lateral connections, installation and monitoring of wastewater temporary by-pass pumping system and road restoration.

This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **60 calendar** days from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **March 14, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-17-020, Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan Sewer Line Replacement Project",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 23, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:00 PM (ChST) on March 15, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Birhen Martinez, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer – via email birhen.martinez@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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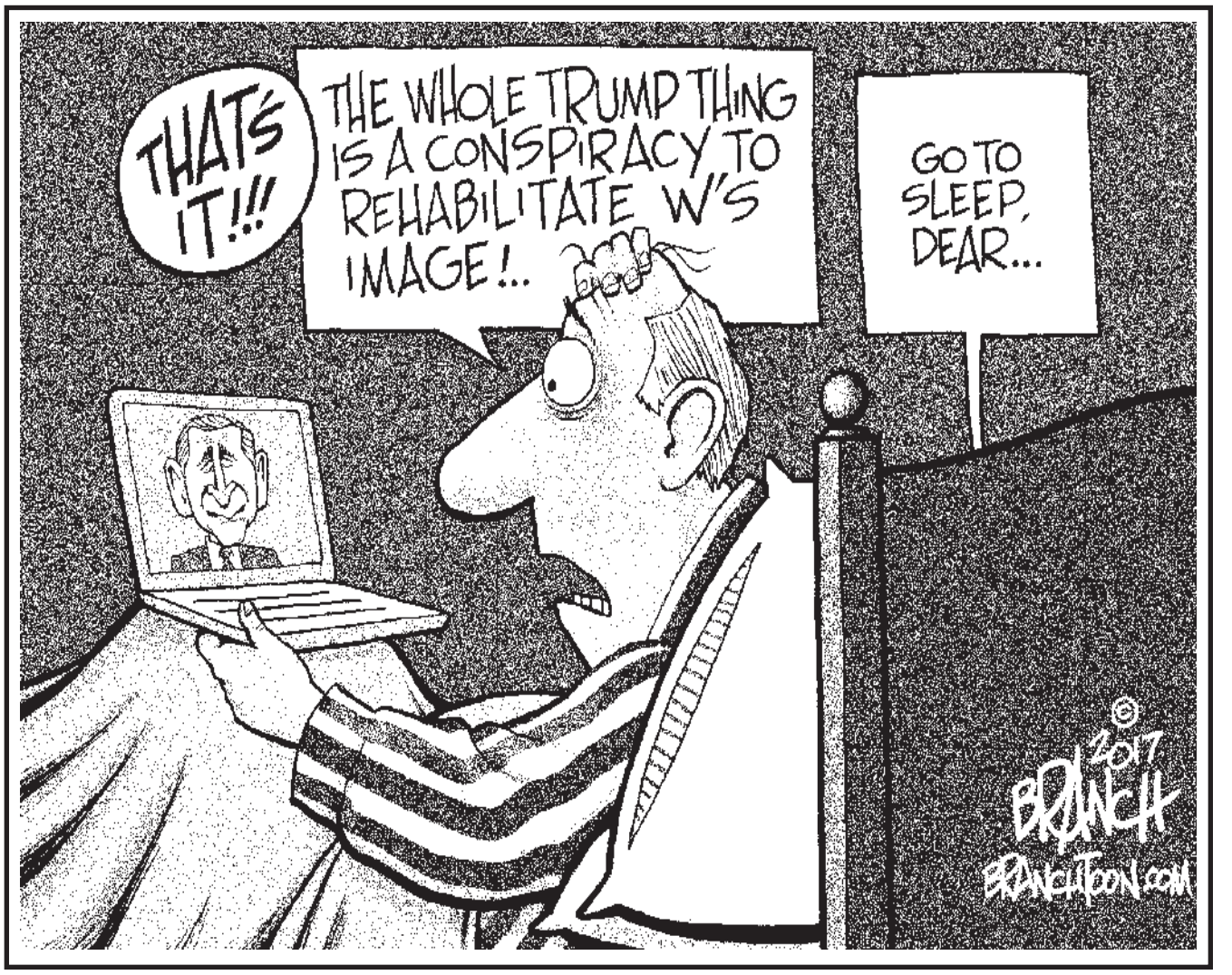


EDITORIAL

A good immigration deal should be humane

President Donald Trump has shown an exasperating ability to send mixed signals on important issues, few more exasperating or important than illegal immigration. The disconnect was on full display Tuesday.

At a luncheon, the president told journalists that he supports reforms that would grant legal status to millions of immigrants here illegally who have not committed serious crimes, and perhaps provide a path to citizenship for Dreamers, those brought here as children.

In his speech before Congress that night, he spoke of reforming the nation's legal immigration system; we await details. But Trump, whose recent executive order expands the pool of potential deportees, also starkly evoked the dangers of illegal immigration and said he'd created an office to serve victims of crimes committed by such immigrants. In the audience were family members of Americans killed by immigrants here illegally; the relatives were guests of first lady Melania Trump.

The president is skilled at the art of misdirection, lacks a consistent ideology and always plays to the audience before him, so it's difficult to judge the sincerity of his earlier remarks. But he also is a dealmaker, he likes to "win," and his largest audience is the American people. And most of them _ 77 percent of registered voters in a Harvard-Harris poll released last week _ favor comprehensive immigration reform along the lines he mentioned at that lunch.

Yes, Trump was elected in part on a promise to secure our borders. He should do that, and deport criminals here illegally, too. But he also should stay in touch with the humanity he has shown in his remarks about the unfairness of deporting Dreamers, and push for reforms that most of the nation wants but that have eluded a generation of policymakers.

Trump's core supporters might not like it. This will test both his ability to lead and the strength of his commitment to unify a fractured country. Negotiation is his self-professed strong suit. Trump should use his skill to broker a good deal on

(c)2017 Newsday

Don't forget our 'forgotten' Americans, Mr. President

By CLARENCE PAGE
Chicago Tribune

Clarence Page is a member of the Chicago Tribune *Editorial Board. Readers may send him email at cpage@tribune.com.*

As President Donald Trump delivered his address to Congress on Tuesday, I listened in vain for a familiar presidential theme: the "forgotten man and woman." I didn't hear it. I hope he didn't forget to remember the "forgotten."

Franklin D. Roosevelt is most famous for invoking "The Forgotten Man" in a 1932 campaign radio address with that title. To FDR, the forgotten man was "at the bottom of the economic pyramid."

That was quite the opposite aim of social Darwinist William Graham Sumner, who in 1883 described the "forgotten man" as the hard worker who yearned to be freed from the nagging needs of the undeserving poor.

Bill Clinton put his own twist on the phrase in 1991 when he announced his presidential candidacy as "a campaign for the future, for the forgotten hard-working middle class families of America."

Small wonder that President Trump revived the theme in his election night victory speech and his inauguration address. "The forgotten men and women of our country will be forgotten no longer," Trump said in November. "Everyone is listening to you now."

Yes, everyone was. I was not happy about Trump's election. But after years of writing about how poverty, job loss and income inequality had entrapped more white people than people of color, I could not help but feel pleased to see poor and working class whites turn out at a higher rate than any other group to vote for change.

That's how democracy is supposed to work. I was only surprised that the working class hero of this decade turned out to be Donald Trump.

Will he remember them now? He didn't mention "forgotten men and women" in his speech to Congress last Tuesday. But I don't think his voter base minded much.

"It's still early of course, but every Trump voter I know loved the speech," author J.D. Vance told me in an e-mail.

Vance is the author of the best-selling " Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis," his story of growing up amid the socio-economic troubles of rural Kentucky and the economically troubled steel town of Middletown, Ohio—where I, too, grew up about three decades earlier.

After reviewers tagged it as a must-read for those who want to understand Trump's voter base, the book soared up the New York Times Best-Sellers List last summer, where it remained ever since.

I'm happy for him. Although I grew up "too po' to afford the 'O'and the 'R'," as my father used to say, Vance had it worse. I grew up in Middletown's era of steel mills, paper mills and prosperity. Vance came along in the city's Rust Belt phase at the end of the century, when hope was running out and new plagues like heroin and other opiates were moving in.

"Many of Trump's voters have always felt a bit conflicted about him," Vance wrote. "On the one hand, he's able to identify and criticize many of the problems that people see in their own communities. But it often comes packaged with a personality or rhetoric that even his most ardent supporters sometimes roll their eyes at."

This speech was different, says Vance. It was "the first time that Trump—either as a candidate or a president—was able to harness the good, stay on message, and avoid the personality problems that bother many."

But can he fulfill his promises to his base? Or will be just another ambitious salesman- politician who promises the world but fails to deliver?

His speech to Congress showed a welcome change in style, more soft-spoken and presidential instead of a rambling, looking-for-laughs monologue. But its substance offered the same grand hyper-inflated promises he offered on the campaign trail without much of any details as to how he's going to get the job done.

On his big promise to repeal and replace Obamacare with "something terrific," he mentioned "tax credits" and "expanded health savings accounts," which is fine for those who can afford them. But with almost half of the nation's workers making too little to income pay federal income tax, the tax credits and HSAs fall short of universal coverage that former President Barack Obama and other Democrats have sought.

Vance, as it turns out, is not waiting for politicians to catch up with our hometown's troubles. He's planning to move back to Middletown from San Francisco, he says, to start up a nonprofit to beat back the opiate overdose epidemic that, at present, has hit Ohio worse than any other state.

President Trump barely mentioned drugs in his speech to Congress. But the nation can't afford to forget it.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Get ready, President Trump—It's all complicated

By PATRICIA MURPHY
CQ-Roll Call

Roll Call columnist Patricia Murphy covers national politics for The Daily Beast. *Previously, she was the Capitol Hill bureau chief for* Politics Daily *and founder and editor of* Citizen Jane Politics. *Follow her on Twitter @1PatriciaMurphy.*

WASHINGTON—President Donald Trump laid out a grand vision to Congress Tuesday night of the plans he has to Make America Great Again—health care reform, tax reform, immigration reform, the Wall, a massive expansion of the military, reduction of the debt. More for less. Everything better. Everything safer. Everything great. Again.

But saying it is the easy part. Now comes the hard part. There is a vast expanse in Washington between promises and plans, and another expanse further to get to progress and achievement. That seemed to have finally dawned on Trump on Monday after he met with the National Governors Association at the White House and discussed health care reform.

"I have to tell you, it's an unbelievably complex subject," Trump said after the meeting. "Nobody knew that health care could be so complicated."

Actually, everybody knew that health care could be so complicated. Everybody. The governors in that room surely knew. So does any member of Congress or staffer who was within 100 miles of the health care debates from 2008 to 2010. Hospitals, insurers, Medicare administrators, state health agencies, pharmaceutical companies, and patients all know, too. Hillary Clinton found out the hard way in 1994. Is it possible that Trump is the only person in America coming to the realization that reforming health care could be so complicated?

To get a sense of just how complicated it's going to be for Trump and Republicans in Congress to repeal, replace, repair and/or rebrand Obamacare, I spoke with House and Senate staffers who were at the center of the multiyear process to pass the Affordable Care Act under President Barack Obama.

Purva Rawal, a senior health policy staffer for then-Sen. Byron Dorgan, worked for more than two years on the ACA. She has since written her own book about the entire process from start to finish. The book is complicated.

"When I saw Trump's quote, my jaw dropped," she said. "Health care accounts for 20 percent of our GDP. How do you change 20 percent of our GDP without it being hard and complex?"

Scott Mulhauser, who worked for Sen. Max Baucus during the negotiations, called Trump's observation "a bigger jaw-dropper than the Oscars fiasco."

Rawal described a years-long, intensely difficult series of meetings, negotiations and agreements that the Affordable Care Act required, but said the process began years earlier in 2006 in Massachusetts when the state reformed its health care system. "That was the proof of concept that you could do a health insurance exchange, that you could expand Medicaid, and that you could get a state's uninsured rate down," she said.

Health care then became a focal point of the 2008 Democratic primaries. Simultaneously, Democratic and Republican Senate staffs began meeting weekly on Capitol Hill to sift through the real-time health care system and sketch out concepts for improving it.

Even before the 2008 elections, a bipartisan group of senators began negotiating a first draft of a Senate bill and continued through 2009. The senators met together 29 times for 60 hours. Later, President Barack Obama held a health care roundtable at the White House. Another working group held a daylong series of panel discussions at the Library of Congress.

Once a framework was in place, then came the Congressional Budget Office. "The CBO piece of it was intensely complicated—we were on the phone with them several times a day, on Saturdays and Sundays, until 10 at night for months," Rawal said. Two Senate committees and three House committees marked up pieces of the bill. One committee needed six weeks for its markup. Every amendment needed a CBO score.

As hard as the policy piece was, the politics were worse. Following the death of Sen. Ted Kennedy, Democrats accelerated their plans to pass their bill, even as the political climate went south in 2009. Democrats moved without skittish Republicans and pushed their own members to get on board. Death threats came for not only members of Congress, but their families, too. When then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi walked across the Capitol Plaza to vote for the final bill, she and Rep. John Lewis marched arm-in-arm through a chorus of boos as they sang, "We shall overcome."

Even with his signature law passed, or because it was passed, Obama lost momentum for immigration reform and climate change legislation for the rest of his first term. Democrats lost 63 seats in the House and six seats in the Senate in the 2010 midterm elections. Health care reform, even with huge majorities and a Democratic White House, was complicated.

You know what else is complicated? Tax reform, immigration reform, and renegotiating trade deals, which Trump has promised to do, and funding the federal government past the current continuing resolution, raising the debt ceiling, and passing a budget, all of which he must do, soon.

Republicans may have unified control of government, but they have yet to speak with a unified voice on almost any matter of policy, especially health care. Most of the blame for that falls on Trump, who has made promises too big to keep and is making commitments on benefits, cost savings and reforms that will never add up. He changes course at a moment's notice, keeps Republican leaders in the dark, and is making an already difficult task for House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Leader Mitch McConnell almost impossible.

Big legislative packages are complex under the best of circumstances. But Trump's grab bag of gigantic campaign promises is dangerously close to being declared dead on arrival with him at the wheel. The president may find out in the end that getting elected president, even against the odds, was easy. Being the president is complicated.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No excuse for OPM error

The news about OPM missing the budget target for a straightforward and simple mathematically-driven pay adjustment for CSC employees' pay is no excuse; this is clearly due to the incompetence of its director.

Missing a budget by $1.4 million is a public disgrace and the director should be admonished for the poor performance of a simple task. The taxpayers' outrage register great concern on management capacity and doubt whether the basic function of the OPM is commanded and handled by a competent official. The irony is comically silent, because each legislative elected elites have no clue why OPM missed a budget by that unexplained range on a situation requiring very simple mathematics. The legislative overview hearing held just recently missed the point and the director left without a strong admonishment for a poor job performance. Thus leaving the taxpayers empty to what they deserve and value if competent work turns reality as normal and expected outcome by and from this government official.

The loop question to this, should an audit on how and what procedures OPM implemented for the pay adjustment scope of work be conducted to satisfy the truism of what went to employees' checks. If errors crop and emerge in the initial procedural processes should that be resolved before any new funds is spent on completing the leftover cases selected and identified and given by OPM thus far. OPM's method of calculation of the pay adjustment scheme should be made public so that we can examine how this simple math was done to derive the pay adjustment of affected employees and persons who have left CSC service and due payment under the pay adjustment law. The subsequent audit should clarify the accountability outcome of adjustments. In other words, where is the beef on what OPM is saying as to missing the target by $1.4 million? Allowing the director to continue performance below the waterline of the OPM boat is sanctioned stupidity. If anyone is at fault it is the director of the OPM.

The recent strategic planning training procured to improve the delivery of competent services to taxpayers is reason enough to place this director on the removal list or placed on probation for poor performance. Frankly, this is part of strategic planning where it addresses functional deficiency of the head of OPM. Hence, the OPM is an institution of the CNMI government charged to remove and dissolve "politics out of politics" of our structural government. By letting the taxpayers their field day engaging and satisfying their level playing field authority includes discharging the incompetent work performance by a poor and shorted performing government official. Which elected elite would come to the aid, rescue, and recovery of value and expectation of taxpayers who are paying the salary of this poor performing public official? We must say the wrong is not right by leaving this person to continue on this important constitutional laced job if our elected elites in the executive and legislative branches branded this issue as loose muffler of a broken engine.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

Real men wear pink

Watching in silence, holding my wife, being part of the moment when Jack's casket sunk below the Earth, was so very painful and solemn and it made me realize..."from dust we came and to dust, we shall return."

I know Joaquin "Jack" Manuel Cepeda walks now with our God, as sure as I am that the Sun will rise tomorrow, because Jack did God's will on Earth. He loved unconditionally, like when I first met Jack, he made me feel welcome.

He was also the life of the party. Call it charm, or call it charisma, but he was inclusive of everyone. He even had kids that he cared for in the neighborhood who sought him out. He and Char were a loving couple and the love in their relationship permeated through them and onto others.

Jack was a real man. His favorite color was "hot pink" and he usually sported a pink tank top, like the day I met him. He was proud of his hot pink look and carried himself well.

He was very funny. If Jack was around, it was going to be a good time.

Jack loved everyone, and we are all enriched because we got to know him.

I hope to be able to be like Jack and look at the world through loving eyes.

The family, his friends, and our community, has lost a good man...

Thank you Jack for your love. We will all miss you very much brother!

R.I.P.

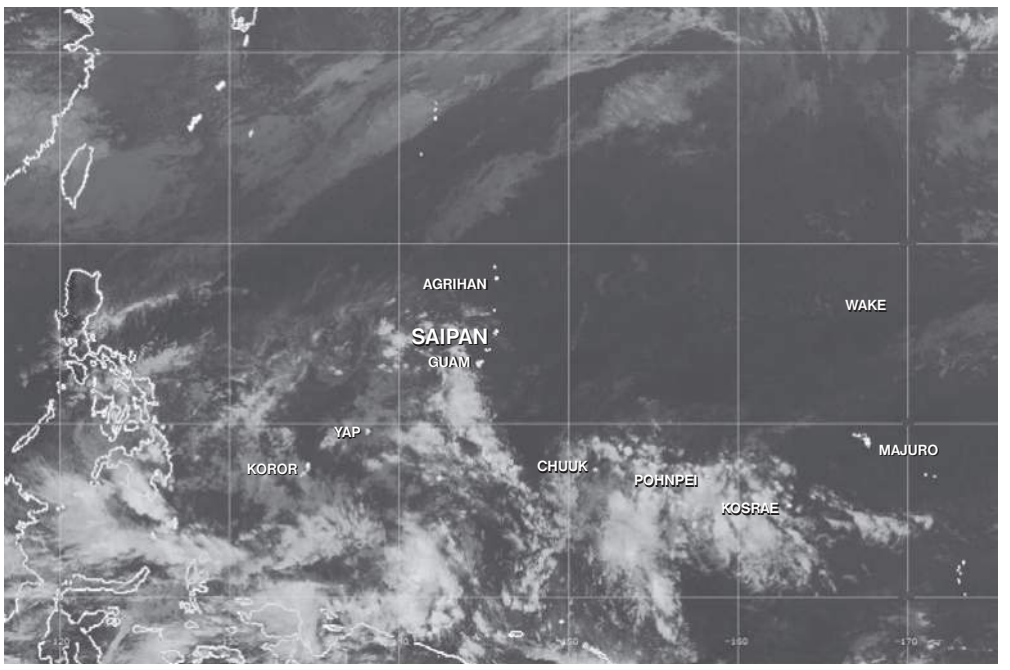
Thomas Thornburgh
via email, NMPASI

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:15 AM, TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate trades and combined seas of 6-8 ft are found across the Marianas this morning. A trade-wind disturbance has brought scattered showers and even a brief thunderstorm or two to Guam coastal waters, but they are now mainly west of Guam and Rota, with isolated showers shown on satellite in Saipan and Tinian waters as well.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Mostly cloudy	86 | 78 °F
Palau	Overcast	87 | 77 °F
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85 | 71 °F
Chuuk	Overcast	84 | 79 °F
Pohnpei	Rain	82 | 78 °F
Kosrae	Rain	82 | 78 °F
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86 | 81 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Rain	72 | 67 °F
Beijing	Sunny	57 | 30 °F
Hong Kong	Scattered Clouds	68 | 62 °F
Honolulu	Clear	79 | 64 °F
London	Rain	51 | 43 °F
Los Angeles	Clear	64 | 47 °F
Manila	Partly Cloudy	89 | 74 °F
Melbourne	Clear	81 | 52 °F
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	77 | 70 °F
New York	Overcast	56 | 50 °F
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	49 | 35 °F
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	51 | 40 °F
Pusan	Clear	40 | 26 °F
Rome	Partly Cloudy	56 | 46 °F
Salem	Light Rain	45 | 38 °F
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	55 | 47 °F
Seoul	Clear	43 | 25 °F
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	50 | 32 °F
Washington, DC	Overcast	68 | 50 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:21 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.71
10:34 AM	LOW TIDE	1.16
3:37 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.76
11:05 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.15

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:29 AM	6:25 PM
Thursday	6:29 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:28 AM	6:26 PM
Saturday	6:27 AM	6:26 PM
Sunday	6:27 AM	6:26 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:437 AM	1:29 PM
Thursday	-	3:37 AM	3:27 PM
Friday	-	4:28 AM	4:23 PM
Saturday	-	5:16 AM	5:17 PM
Sunday	-	6:01 AM	6:10 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)

7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	4, 7
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

UO43	1:40am	5:00am	1, 4, 6
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/723	3:50am	12:50pm	Daily via ICN
PR1572/318	5:45am	12:20pm	4, 7 via MNL
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN

7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
PR307/1571	6:20pm	4:45am+1	3, 6 via MNL
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

GCA Eagles keep soaring high

Five Grace Christian Academy students have shown excellent performance in the 2017 Academic Bee Challenge for middle school students.

The five-member GCA team, which won second place among 65 contenders from 13 private and public schools in the CNMI, was composed of 7th graders Miku Kimura, James Alexander Keaton, and Cheng Si Conrad Bao, and 8th graders Jinju Thompson and Joshua Pajarillaga.

Kimura and Pajarillaga were members of GCA 2016 Middle School Academic Challenge Team, the first one to represent the CNMI at the national competition and won second place in the entire nation last year.

Organized by Saipan Southern High School's National Honor Society, the event marked the 22nd year the Academic Bee Challenge was held in the CNMI. Held last Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, the competition, conceptualized for schools in the CNMI, aims to better promote learning among students.

GCA'S NSDA WINNERS

Also, all nine Grace Christian Academy's 9th-12th grade students who competed in the last qualifying competition for the National Speech and Debate Association last Feb. 18, 2017, at Hopwood Middle School won one or more awards.

Dramatic Interpretation A
Tae Yong Kim, 2nd Place
Johnny Jin, 5th Place

Duo Interpretation B
Sein Woo, 2nd Place
Eun Kyung Alice Kim, 2nd Place

Original Oratory A
Minna Natsuko Ito, 2nd Place

US Extemporaneous Speech
Arvin Dayao, 3rd Place
Martin Angelo Pangilinan, 4th Place

International Extemporaneous Speech
Lanz Jabez Victoria, 2nd Place

Impromptu Speech A
Johnny Jin, 2nd Place

Impromptu Speech B
Tae Yong Kim, 4th Place

Impromptu Speech D
Minna Natsuko Ito, 1st Place

Poetry Reading Masters A
Eun Kyung Alice Kim, 2nd Place

Poetry Reading Masters B
Tae Yong Kim, 5th Place

Prose Reading Masters B
Sumin Melody Woo, 2nd Place

NJSDA/NSDA coach/coordinator: Grace Duran
Competition registrar: Esther Manzano
Judges: Connie Chandler, Joan Taitano, Daniel Dilse, Miriam Dilse

GCA MATH COURT WINNERS

The following Grace Christian Academy's Kindergarten 5 to 6th grade students won several awards from the last monthly qualifying competition of Math Court last Feb. 18, 2017, at Hopwood Middle School.

Kinder 5 - 3rd Grade

Kindergarten
Hans Ordas, 1st Place

1st Grade
Sheewoo Kim, 1st Place

2nd Grade
Min Su Andy Kim, 3rd Place

3rd Grade
Jung Woo Kim, 1st Place
Sena Woo, 1st Place
Rafael Busby, 2nd Place

4th -6th GRADE QUALIFIERS

4th Grade
Tae Young Lee
Jessica Ma
Koey Pan

5th Grade
Andrew Nunez

6th Grade
Ryan Daproza
Matthew Ernest
Anthony Camacho-DLG

GCA proctors: Susan Pajarillaga, Marilyn Aldan, Laila Portuguez, Jae Kwang Oh
GCA Math Court coordinator: Susan Pajarillaga

GCA CHAMORRO, REFALUWASCH CALENDAR POSTER WINNERS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy's Kindergarten-6th grade February 2017 Math Court winners have their pictures taken at the Rev. Raymond S. Kinsella Library.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy's 2017 Middle School Academic Challenge Team pose with their coach, Susan Pajarillaga.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy's National Speech & Debate Association February 2017 winners have their pictures taken at the Rev. Raymond S. Kinsella Library.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy's winners of 2017 Chamorro and Refaluwasch Lunar calendar poster have their pictures taken with Jack Ogumoro.

Four Grace Christian Academy students won in different categories of the 2017 Chamorro and Refaluwasch lunar calendar poster contest sponsored by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. The theme of the competition was "Fishing and Farming to the Cycles of the Moon and Seasons." The intent is to raise awareness about traditional knowledge and enhance community involvement in fishery management. The students' winning artworks were featured in the 2017 Chamorro and Refaluwasch lunar calendar with Sara Elizabeth Keaton's work as the cover. Council on-site coordinator Joaquin "Jack" Ogumoro came to GCA last March 1, 2017, to give the awards to the following students.

Graces K-2
Helena Liu, 3rd Place

Grades 3-5
Sara Elizabeth Keaton, 2nd Place
Tae Hee Kim, 4th Place

Grades 9-12
Paula Rose Talibong, 1st Place

Art teache: Esther Manzano

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Food & Beverage Manager (1)
Qualifications: A degree in hotel and restaurant management is preferred plus minimum of 3 years experience as an Assistant F&B Manager or F&B Manager capacity, in a five-star hotel, club, or resort. Strong background and experience in Food & Beverage preferably in the hospitality industry. Possess the ability to work quickly, accurately and independently in a fast-paced environment. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early morning, nights, weekends and holidays.

Room Reservations Supervisor (1)
Qualifications: Preferably college degree and must have 2 years of experience in Sales and Marketing or Tourism. Must know how to handle the room situations in case of over sell or over bookings, need to be familiar to hotel and agent policy, cut off days, agent room blockage and cancellations policy. Know how to protect the hotel, agent contract and their privacy. Must have excellent communication skills, good quality of customer service, and multi tasking skills are a must. Team player is a must. Capable of decision making and can work under pressure. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays when needed.

Guest Relations Supervisor (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma or general education degree; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Minimum 2 to 4 years supervisory level work experience in Front Office of a hotel. Ensure maximum guest satisfaction, and adhering to the standard requiring by the hotel. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early morning, nights, weekends and holidays

Guest Relations Agent (4)
Qualifications: Preferable some basic knowledge of travel/hotel industry. Minimum 3 to 6 months related work experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Ensure maximum guest satisfaction, and adhering to the standard requiring by the hotel. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early morning, nights, weekends and holidays.

International Cook (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma; graduate from independent and vocational cooking schools, professional culinary institutes or a college degree in appropriate field or equivalent. At least 2 to 4 years experience in a five-star Hotel, Club, or Resort. Knowledge of various international menu/dishes. Knowledge of techniques and equipment for planting, growing, and harvesting food products (both plant and animal) for consumption, including storage/handling techniques. Knowledge of raw materials, production processes, quality control, costs, and other techniques for maximizing the effective manufacture and distribution of goods. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays when needed.

Accountant (1)
Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree in Accounting with 2 years of progressive experience in accounting. Airline industry experience preferred. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software, Peachtree and Microsoft software. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays when needed.

Accounting Manager (1)
Qualifications: College degree with financial management major and 3 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 5 years' experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage people. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software, Peachtree and Microsoft software. CPA not required. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays when needed.

Lead Customer Service Agent (Airport) (5)
Qualifications: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 4 years experience in passenger or customer service. Heads shift or work project, as directed by the supervisor, assisting passengers by answering inquiries regarding flight information/booking/reservations, checking-in out-bound passengers and luggage and assisting them in boarding flights, assisting in-bound passengers through immigration and customs. Must be computer-literate with excellent oral and written communication skills. Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations. Must be able to lift 70 pounds and carry it for at least 100 yards. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays when needed.

Customer Service Agent (Aircraft) (4)
Qualifications: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 2 years experience in aircraft exterior and interior cleaning. Performs interior cleaning of various aircraft to include cabins, lavatories and galleys. Must be knowledgeable in the use of different kinds of cleaning equipment, tools and materials. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays when needed.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applicants must be submitted not later than March 17, 2017. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

POI Aviation

Supervisor, Guest Relations (5)
Qualification: 2 years experience in front office in a supervisory capacity and preferably from a full service hotel/resort. Must be able to supervise and coordinate the activities of guest relations workers to ensure that guests on vacation or business travel have a pleasant experience, while also ensuring the establishment is run efficiently and profitably. Must be proficient in computer software applications, strong customer service and time management skills are essential. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

Accountant – Accounts Payable (2)
Qualification: 4 years progressive experience in this field and preferably from a high volume hotel. AA or BA in either accounting or in the hospitality finance is preferred. Strong math and computer skills, particularly with spreadsheets, knowledge with accounting software in particular SAP, R3, and FICO are required. Must have an eye for detail; strong time management and organizational skills are essential. Must be able to work under pressure and can work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays as required.

Accountant – Accounts Receivable (1)
Qualification: 4 years progressive experience in this field and preferably from a high volume hotel. AA or BA in either accounting or in the hospitality finance is preferred. Strong math and computer skills, particularly with spreadsheets, knowledge with accounting software in particular SAP, R3, and FICO are required. Must have an eye for detail; strong time management and organizational skills are essential. Must be able to work under pressure and can work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays as required.

Accountant – Cost (1)
Qualification: 4 years progressive experience in this field and preferably from a high volume hotel. AA or BA in either accounting or in the hospitality finance is preferred. Strong math and computer skills, particularly with spreadsheets, knowledge with accounting software in particular SAP, R3, and FICO are required. Must have an eye for detail; strong time management and organizational skills are essential. Must be able to work under pressure and can work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays as required.

Assistant Sales Manager, Korean Market (2)
Qualification: Must have 2 years working experience in sales in the hotel industry at a management level is required and preferably from a full service hotel. Strong knowledge of property management system Fidelio. Possess the ability to think strategically, inductively and creatively. Must have the ability to travel as requested Must be fluent in Korean. Willing to work flexible schedule including weekends, nights and holidays.

Director of Food & Beverage (1)
Qualification: 4 years progressive responsibility in food & beverage in management level is required and preferably from a full service hotel or high volume restaurant. Solid time management , organization and prioritization skills are essential. Experienced in resolving customer issues/complaints as well as overall compliance of all health regulations for food preparation. Proven ability to effectively build and foster a team environment and make decisions in a fast paced environment. Proficient with computer software applications. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

Director of Sales & Marketing (1)
Qualification: Bachelor's Degree in Sales & Marketing or Business preferred with a minimum of 6 years related experience with progressive managerial experience. Demonstrated in-depth sales and marketing techniques and financial principles. Fluency in Japanese language is essential. Able to travel off-island occasionally to attend sales meeting as necessary. Must be willing to work flexible schedule including holidays and weekends.

E-System Analyst (1)
Qualification: Employees in these occupations usually need several years of work-related experience, on-the-job training and/or vocational training. Must have knowledge on computer software including applications and programming. Must be able to work independently or with very little supervision. Must have attention to detail. Able to work a flexible schedule including week-ends and holidays.

Laundry Attendant (3)
Qualification: Employees in these occupations need anywhere from a few months to one year of working with experienced employees. A recognized apprenticeship program may be associated with these occupations. Experience as a laundry worker is required, preferably from a full service hotel or establishment such as hospital. Must be able to lift and carry 35 pounds. Must be able to stand on feet throughout work shift. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, back-to-back, nights and holidays. Strong communication and interpersonal skills are essential.

Bartender/Wait Staff (2)
Qualification: High school graduate or equivalent with 1 year of working with experienced employees in the preparation of mixed cocktails required. Strong communication and interpersonal skills are essential. Able to work flexible hours including weekends, nights and holidays.

Accounting Manager (1)
Qualification: A minimum of Bachelor's degree with an emphasis in accounting. 5 Years experience in the area of financial statement preparation, budgeting, payroll, purchasing, accounts payable and accounts receivable or the equivalent. Experience working with an automated financial management system. Knowledge and ability in the use of personal computer and software applications particularly SAP R3, FICO. Strong organizational and analytical skills and the ability to maintain detailed records, ability to work effectively under pressure. Able to communicate both oral and written. Must be able to work a varied schedule including holidays and weekends when required. The applicant must successfully complete a background check.

Restaurant Manager (1)
Qualification: 2 years experience as a restaurant manager in a full service hotel or high volume restaurant is required. Strong communication, interpersonal and customer service skills are essential. Good problem solving and organizational skills are needed. Requires the ability to work under pressure and time constraints. Ability to speak Japanese, Korean or Mandarin Chinese is preferred. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, weekends, nights and holidays.

Maintenance Manager (1)
Qualification: 3 years of skilled and increasingly responsible experience in building construction or maintenance work of which at least 2 years shall have been in management level. Knowledge of tools, materials, working practices and methods of the building trades, materials, equipment, working procedures and methods required in a hotel property and grounds maintenance program, and in the repair and minor construction of hotel facilities, landscaping, plant propagation, soils, insecticides and gardening tools, laws affecting the maintenance, repair and construction of hotel facility principles of supervision, training and management. Must be willing to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, weekends, nights and holidays.

Manager, Information Technology (1)
Qualification: Bachelor's degree in computer science or equivalent education and experience. Knowledge of website technologies. 2-4 years progressive IT experience in management level including experience in multi-office environment. Demonstrated ability to lead a team of technical staff to work with the executive management of an organization and to manage multiple concurrent projects. Excellent communication skills. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, weekends, nights and holidays.

Mason (1)
Qualification: 2 years experience as a mason is required. Exhibit a personality that demonstrates interpersonal skills to internal customers. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Painter (1)
Qualification: 2 years experience as a painter is required.. Must have an eye for detail and good judgment. Must be able to carry and lift up to 35 pounds without any assistance. Able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Plumber (2)
Qualification: 2 years experience as a plumber is required. Knowledge of the tools, equipment and materials common to the plumbing trade is required. Must be able to carry and lift heavy objects. Willingness to work outside (if necessary) in inclement weather and able to work flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Senior Supervisor, Food & Beverage (2)
Qualification: 4 years progressive work experience at a supervisory/managerial capacity in food & beverage from a high volume restaurant or hotel is required. Excellent customer service skills, organizational and communication skills are essential. Knowledge with health, fire and sanitation regulations.

Supervisor, Accounts Receivable (1)
Qualification: Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, major in accounting, preferably 2 years work experience within the field and in a supervisory level is required. Progressive experience in accounts receivable operations and preferably in a full service hotel. Proficient in SAP, Microsoft Office applications and other software. Must be able to work flexible schedule on occasion including weekends and holidays.

Supervisor, General Accounting (2)
Qualification: College graduate. Bachelor's Degree in Business administration, major in accounting preferred. 4 years progressive work experience as an accountant in supervisory level. Must be computer literate and proficient in accounting software application particularly SAP, R3, and FICO. Must have strong organizational skills and is a team player. Must be able to work under pressure and time constraints. Able to work flexible schedule including weekends and holidays when required.

Supervisor, Guest Relations (5)
Qualification: 2 years experience in Front Office in a supervisory capacity is required and preferably from a full service hotel/resort. Must be able to supervise and coordinate the activities of guest relations workers to ensure that guests on vacation or business travel have a pleasant experience while also ensuring the establishment is run efficiently and profitably. Must be proficient in computer software applications. Strong customer service and time management skills are essential. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights.

Supervisor, Landscaping (1)
Qualification: High School diploma or equivalent. 2 years work experience as a landscaper in a supervisory level is required. Must be willing to work a flexible schedule including weekends, and holidays. Must be able to lift/carry up to 35 pounds with any assistance.

Supervisor, Mechanical (1)
Qualification: Most occupations in this zone require training in vocational schools, related on-the-job experience, or an associate's degree, AND one or two years of mechanical engineering or related and/or education from which comparable knowledge skills, abilities have been achieved. Must be willing to work a flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends or holidays.

Supervisor, Purchasing (1)
Qualification: Any combination of education and experience that has provided the knowledge skills and abilities necessary for a purchasing supervisor. 2 years of professional purchasing experience including 1 year in supervisory capacity is required and preferably from a full service hotel. Able to work under pressure and time line must. Must be willing to work a flexible schedule including weekends, nights and holidays when necessary.

Supervisor, Steward (2)
Qualification: 2 years experience as a steward in supervisory level. Must be able to work long hours and handle pressure. Have strong knowledge on health and sanitation procedure and implementation. Able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Front Office Manager (3)
Qualifications: Preferably a college graduate with a Bachelor degree in Hospitality or Tourism Management; a minimum of two years work experience as Front Office Supervisor in a hotel of significant volume. Ability to read, analyze and interpret journals, financial reports and legal documents. Ability to write letters, memorandums or conceptualizing hotel's objectives. Ability to effectively present information to top management and employees, in groups or individually. Ability to speak, write and read in the English language fluently. Fluency in Japanese is an advantage. Ability to calculate figures and amounts such as discounts, commissions, proportions, percentages, area, circumstances, and volume, and analyze such information. Ability to define problems, collect data, establish facts, and draw valid conclusions. Comprehensive knowledge of business management, financial reporting and productivity requirements; Proficient in Microsoft Office program and Fidelio System software. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings holidays and/or weekends.

Electrician (2)
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. Minimum of five (5) years work experience required. Provide access for future maintenance and avoid unreliable wiring, consistent with verification and electrical codes, and other related duties as assigned. Capable of reading schematic diagram, and electrical symbols, knowledgeable on industrial electricity, circuit breakers, switches and controls. Must to work in a flexible way that allows for changes in assignments and priorities depending upon identified needs of the department. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Landscaper (1)
Qualifications: Minimum of two (2) to three (3) years previous work experience. Cultivates and cares for ornamental plants and installs floral displays indoor or outdoor settings through performance of any combination of following duties as directed by supervisory personnel. Able to work a variable schedule on occasion including weekends.

Sous Chef (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma; a graduate from independent and vocational cooking schools, professional culinary institutes or a college degree in appropriate field or equivalent. Must have at least four (4) years experience in a five-star Hotel, Club, or Resort. Supervising-chef assistant Supervises and coordinates activities of cooks and other workers engaged in preparing and cooking foodstuffs. Assumes responsibility for kitchen in absence of EXECUTIVE CHEF. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

International Cook (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma; graduate from independent and vocational cooking schools, professional culinary institutes or a college degree in appropriate field or equivalent. At least three (3) years experience in a five-star Hotel, Club, or Resort. Must be able to prepare, season, and cook a wide range of international dishes such as soups, meats, vegetables, salads, entrees, and desserts in the Resort. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Baker (2)
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. At least two (2) years experience in a five-star Hotel, Club, or Resort. preferably in a hotel. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Demi Chef (3)
Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent, or postsecondary instruction from vocational schools. Minimum of four (4) years work experience as a Demi-Chef preferably in hotel. Comprehensive knowledge of kitchen hygiene practices and occupational health and safety standards is essential. Supervise and coordinates activities of kitchen operation and personnel. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Cafeteria Attendant (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma or GED certificate. Little or no previous work-related skill, knowledge, or experience is needed for these occupations. Must facilitate food service. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

A/C Refrigeration Mechanic/Technician (1)
Qualifications: Require post-secondary instruction from technical and trade schools or community colleges that offer programs in air-conditioning and refrigeration or and associate's degree. Completion of an apprenticeship program or two (2) to four (4) years of experience. Able to install and repair industrial and commercial refrigeration systems. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Powerhouse Mechanic (Power Plant) (1)
Qualifications: Require postsecondary instruction from technical and trade schools or community colleges, and/or associate's degree. Completion of an apprenticeship program or 2 to 4 years of experience. Perform routine maintenance or make repairs to mechanical, electrical, or electronic equipment in power plants. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Pool Attendant (1)
Qualifications: High School graduate with at least two (2) years work experience as a Pool Attendant. Knowledgeable on some sports and in organizing group activities. Must be knowledgeable with the use of chemicals for the pool. Certified CPR, First Aid and Lifeguard. Willing to work a variable schedule on occasion, including weekends.

General Maintenance Worker/Repairer (3)
Qualifications: Minimum of two (2) years work experience as a Handyman preferably in a hotel or in a similar large building or complex with central plant. Willingness to work outside (if necessary) in inclement weather. Must be able to carry and lift heavy objects. Possession of a valid driver's license is essential. Perform work involving skills of two or more maintenance craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Income Auditor Supervisor (1)
Qualifications: A bachelor's degree in accounting or a related field. Minimum of five (5) years progressive experience in night audit/income audit operations, preferably in a hotel. Examine and analyze accounting records to determine financial status of establishment and prepare financial reports concerning operating procedures. Must also have experience with inventories to include, but not limited to F&B, Dry goods and Housekeeping cleaning and guest supplies. Willing to work a variable schedule on occasion, including weekends.

Housekeeping Cleaner (21)
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. Minimum 6 months work experience preferably in a hotel. Must be able to speak and write in English. Ability to speak basic foreign language is a plus. Good customer service skills are essential. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Tailor/Seamstress (3)
Qualifications: Minimum of three (3) years work experience as a tailor preferably in a hotel. Must be able to think creatively. Is able to design, make draperies, repair or fit garments. Must have an interest in fashion, color and style. Must have ability to work quickly, accurately and independently in a fast-paced environment. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Housekeeping Supervisor (8)
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum of two (2) years work experience at a supervisory/managerial capacity, in a five-star hotel, club, or resort. Must directly supervise and coordinate work activities of cleaning personnel in the hotel. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Senior Housekeeping Supervisor (1)
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum of three (3) to four (4) years work experience at a supervisory/managerial capacity, in a five-star hotel, club, or resort. Must directly supervise and coordinate work activities of cleaning personnel in the hotel. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

IT Tech Support Manager (1)
Qualifications: Any combination of education and training equivalent to possession of a bachelor's degree in computer science, information engineering, computer associates or other related areas. Must have at least five (5) years working experience. Experience in all areas of local and wide area networks management and administration including system configuration, setup, troubleshooting, implementation, and user support. Experience installing and supporting Microsoft server technologies. Working knowledge of local and wide area networks (LAN/WAN), Internet, e-mail systems, telecommunications and data communications, standard operating systems, software packages, and software. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Night Auditor (2)
Qualifications: College Diploma or Equivalent certificate, in a hotel or resort. Must have at least two (2) years experience in hotel internal auditing. Must be willing to work flexible night duty/graveyard schedule, weekends, holidays and extended work hours. Understanding of business processes and work flow design. Strong financial analytical background and must be knowledgeable on Microsoft office applications and other software are essential. Good communication and interpersonal skills are necessary. Also responsible in handling of company general funds. Ability to pay close attention to detail with a high degree of accuracy, adapt to changes in work environment, work as assignments and/or changes in priorities. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Wait Staff (16)
Qualifications: High school diploma/GED. At least 6 months serving experience required or 6 months current hosting experience. Restaurant and Beverages experience preferred. Proven knowledge of Micros or equivalent computer software and cash check, credit card handling procedures required. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Wait Staff (Banquet) (2)
Qualifications: High school diploma/GED. At least one (1) years experience required in banquet and/or related field. Restaurant and Beverages experience preferred. Proven knowledge of Micros or equivalent computer software and cash check, credit card handling procedures required. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Food and Beverage Supervisor (7)
Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent or training in vocational schools, related on-the-job experience, or an associate's degree. Minimum two (2) years work experience as F&B supervisor preferably in a hotel. Must be able to directly supervise and coordinate activities of workers engaged in preparing and serving. Strong customer service skills and people oriented. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Cook (9)
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent with three (3) years work experience preferably in a hotel. Basic culinary skills and good hygiene knowledge is essential. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Maintenance Coordinator (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent. Requires one or two years of satisfactory performance as a Maintenance Coordinator; or any combination of related education and experience in the assigned area; or up to four (4) years of college courses in civil engineering, construction management or related field. Ability to interpret and administer contracts for construction, and/or operational services. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Room Reservations Manager (1)
Qualifications: College or university Diploma in Hospitality or Tourism Management; minimum of two years related experience as Front Office Manager, Executive Housekeeping Manager or Sales Manager in a hotel. Comprehensive knowledge of business need, financial reporting and productivity requirements. Proficient in Microsoft Office Program and Property Management System. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends and holidays.

Facilities and Repair Maintenance Manager (1)
Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in related field or five years facilities and repair management experience in a manufacturing environment. Responsible for Rooms Preventative Maintenance Schedule, Building Repair and Maintenance, Landscaping and Gardening, Banquet, Restaurant and Kitchen Repair and Maintenance, Public Area Repair and Maintenance, Swimming Pool Repair and Maintenance, Concessionaires Repair and Maintenance, set up of banquet requirement and others. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends and holidays.

Power Plant Maintenance Manager (1)
Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in related field or five years management experience in a power plant environment. Responsible for production, maintenance, quality and other production-related activities. In charge of Power Plants, Reverse Osmosis Plants, Back Up Power Generators, Chillers (Air Con) Operations, Sewerage System operations, Electrical Switch Gears operations, Water Pumps operations, Boilers/Hot Water Operation, energy consumption readings and recording, and others. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends and holidays.

Operations Manager (1)
Qualifications: College degree graduate with a minimum of 5 years experience in hotel management. Plan, direct or coordinate activities of an organization or department that provides lodging and other accommodations. Also, responsible for developing , establishing and maintaining marketing strategies to meet organizational objectives. Able to work independently. Good organizational and planning skills are essential. Ability to work in remote field office for several months at a time as necessary. Accountable for customer satisfaction and providing high quality service in representing company. Must have knowledge in Front Office Operations , Sales and Marketing strategies , Housekeeping operations and other hotel operations. Also , takes full responsibility of the entire hotel operations in the absence of the General / Resident Manager.

Interested applicants may send their applications to recruitment@poiaviation.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than March 17, 2017. Applications for employment are available at the Human Resources Department located at the POI Aviation Building on International Terminal LP, Saipan International Airport. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

POI Aviation is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Business

GOP releases healthcare bill

WASHINGTON (AP)— House Republicans on Monday released their long-awaited plan for unraveling former President Barack Obama's health care law, a package that would scale back the government's role in helping people afford coverage and likely leave more Americans uninsured.

House committees planned to begin voting on the 123-page legislation Wednesday, launching what could be the year's defining battle in Congress and capping seven years of Republican vows to repeal the 2010 law. Though GOP leaders expect a boost from the backing of the Trump administration, divisions remain and GOP success is not ensured.

The plan would repeal the statute's unpopular fines on people who don't carry health insurance. It would replace income-based subsidies the law provides to help millions of Americans pay premiums with age-based tax credits that may be skimpier for people with low incomes. Those payments would phase out for higher-earning people.

The bill would continue Obama's expansion of Medicaid to additional low-earning Americans until 2020. Beginning then, states adding Medicaid recipients would no longer receive the additional federal funds the statute has provided.

More significantly, Republicans would overhaul the entire federal-state Medicaid program, changing its open-ended federal financing to a limit based on enrollment and costs in each state, a move likely to cause funding cuts.

In perhaps their riskiest political gamble, the plan is expected to cover fewer than the 20 million people insured under Obama's overhaul, including many residents of states carried by President Donald Trump in November's election.

Republicans said they don't have official coverage estimates yet, but aides from both parties and nonpartisan analysts have said they expect those numbers to be lower. Trump has said his goal is "insurance for everybody," and numerous GOP governors and members of Congress have demanded that people not lose coverage.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said the bill would "drive down costs, encourage competition, and give every American access to quality, affordable health insurance."

Spokeswoman Caitlin Oakley said Health Secretary Tom Price "welcomes action by the House to end this nightmare for the American people."

Otherwise excellent co-worker alarmingly untidy

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @ officecoach.*

Q: I have an intelligent, professional co-worker whose office looks like a pig sty. "Mark" must be some sort of hoarder because he never throws anything away. Stacks of paper cover his desk, and documents are haphazardly strewn across the floor. Plastic food containers and dirty utensils are everywhere.

Although Mark's office has become a standing joke, it's really not funny at all. Mark is never able to find information when we need it, and the clutter gives visitors a bad impression of our business. His office is like an obscene gesture to everyone who works here.

Our supervisor is located in a different building, so he isn't around very often. We've mentioned our concerns to Mark, but he doesn't seem to care. What can we do about this?

A: Office hoarders seldom reform without a clear directive from management. Because your supervisor only visits occasionally, his reaction to Mark's mess may simply be due to it being out of sight, out of mind. But since the rest of you encounter this chaos on a daily basis, you must help your boss understand the problem.

For example: "We need your help because Mark's office has become a serious issue. He can't find important information, and the clutter makes a very negative impression on visitors. His old food containers are disgusting and unsanitary. Mark won't change unless management insists, so we would like you to talk with him."

With any luck, your boss will wise up and begin some serious performance coaching. This means establishing firm expectations, following up to be sure they are met, and imposing consequences if the problem continues. But if your supervisor wimps out, the only remaining option might be a group intervention. Or perhaps a group clean-up.

Q: I recently left my very first job because I was a victim of workplace bullying. Other employees gossiped about me, and I was teased and ridiculed excessively. After awhile, even my closest co-workers became involved. Eventually, my supervisor, her boss, and the executive director all began acting like bullies.

With the entire organization lined up against me, things seemed to be spiraling out of control. I dreaded going to work every day because I was constantly humiliated by everyone around me. Now that I'm looking for another job, how can I keep this from happening again?

A: Genuine workplace bullying is a serious issue. However, the determination of "bullying" can be complicated, because it's often a matter of perception. Since the circumstances you describe are both unusual and extreme, involving literally everyone with whom you worked, there are two possible explanations.

First, perhaps you unwittingly wandered into an occupational hellhole where perceived misfits are mercilessly tormented. That would actually be good news, because you are unlikely to encounter such an exceptionally evil environment ever again.

On the other hand, since this is your first job, you might be overreacting to relatively normal workplace interactions. If that's the problem, you will soon find out, because the pattern will repeat. So if your next position presents similar challenges, you should consider talking with a professional career counselor.

Nation

Supreme Court won't say if trans teen can pick bathroom

WASHINGTON (AP)— The Supreme Court is leaving the issue of transgender rights in schools to lower courts for now after backing out of a high-profile case Monday of a Virginia high school student who sued to be able to use the boys' bathroom.

AP

In this Aug. 22, 2016 file photo, transgender high school student Gavin Grimm poses in Gloucester, Va.

The court's order in the case of teenager Gavin Grimm means that attention now will turn to lower courts around the country that are grappling with rights of transgender students to use school bathrooms that correspond to their chosen gender, not the one assigned at birth.

The appeals court in Richmond, Virginia, and other appellate panels handling similar cases around the country will have the first chance to decide whether federal anti-discrimination law or the Constitution protects transgender students' rights.

Monday's action by a court that has been short-handed for more than a year comes after the Trump administration pulled back federal guidance advising schools to let students use the bathroom of their chosen gender, not the one assigned at birth.

The justices rejected a call from both sides to decide the issue in a case that was dramatically altered by the election of President Donald Trump.

Grimm's case had been scheduled for argument in late March. Instead, a lower court in Virginia will be tasked with evaluating the federal law known as Title IX and the extent to which it applies to transgender students. Lawsuits involving transgender students are making their way through the courts in at least five other states: Illinois, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

For Grimm, the order means that he probably will graduate with the issue unresolved. Now, his wish to use the boys' bathroom is blocked by a policy of the Gloucester County school board. Although he won a court order allowing him to use the boys' bathroom at Gloucester High School, the Supreme Court put it on hold last August, before the school year began.

Talking to reporters by telephone Monday, Grimm said the situation has added stress to the usual senior year worries of applying to college because the "school board has sent this direct message ... that there is something about you that deserves to be segregated from the rest of the student body."

The court case has drawn attention from all over the world. Apple, IBM and Microsoft were among the 53 companies that signed onto a brief filed last week urging the court to rule in his favor.

In Gloucester, a small, conservative Tidewater town, the issue has divided residents and fellow students.

As president, Trump seeks answers on his own wiretap mystery

WASHINGTON (AP)— If Donald Trump wants to know whether he was the subject of surveillance by the U.S. government, he may be uniquely positioned to get an answer.

In a series of weekend tweets, the president accused his predecessor, Barack Obama, of ordering wiretaps on his phones but offered no proof to back the claim. The White House then called on Congress to investigate the allegations.

But former government lawyers say Trump hardly needs Congress to answer this question.

"The intelligence community works for the president, so if a president wanted to know whether surveillance had been conducted on a particular target, all he'd have to do is ask," said Todd Hinnen, head of the Justice Department's National Security Division during the Obama administration and a National Security Council staff member under George W. Bush.

The latest storm began Saturday when Trump tweeted: "Is it legal for a sitting President to be 'wire tapping' a race for president prior to an election? Turned down by court earlier. A NEW LOW!" He followed up with: "How low has President Obama gone to tapp my phones during the very sacred election process. This is Nixon/Watergate. Bad (or sick) guy!"

The Justice Department, not the president, would have the authority to conduct such surveillance, and officials have not confirmed any such action. Through a spokesman, Obama said neither he nor any White House official had ever ordered surveillance on any U.S. citizen. Obama's top intelligence official, James Clapper, also said Trump's claims were false, and a U.S. official said the FBI asked the Justice Department to rebut Trump's assertions.

Why turn to Congress, Trump spokesman Sean Spicer was asked Monday.

"My understanding is that the president directing the Department of Justice to do something with respect to an investigation that may or may not occur with evidence may be seen as trying to interfere," Spicer said. "And I think that we're trying to do this in the proper way."

He indicated that Trump was responding to media reports rather than any word from the intelligence community. Other officials have suggested the president was acting on other information.

Sen. John McCain, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, said Monday that Trump needs to give more information to the American people and Congress about his wiretapping accusations. "The dimensions of this are huge," McCain said. "It's accusing a former president of the United States of violating the law. That's never happened before."

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude. Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(1) ACCOUNT ANALYST
Minimum of three (3) years related work experience and one (1) year supervisory experience, preferably in hospitality. Degree in accounting is required; CPA preferred; Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office (Word and Excel) and must be knowledgeable in using Opera and MAS 90; Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ASSISTANT ENGINEERING MANAGER
Minimum of three (3) years of Engineering industry experience at a hotel plus two (2) years of supervisory experience. a Vocational degree or an Associate degree in Electrical Engineering or combination and/or related experience in the Engineering field is required. Technical knowledge and proficiency on electrical, plumbing and boiler operations is preferred. Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to support a 24hrs business are also essential. Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office (word and excel). Must be able to work in a flexible schedule which includes early mornings, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ASSISTANT FRONT OFFICE MANAGER
Assists with the Front Office operations, including a Call Center, Concierge, Tour Desk and Guest Service operations; Must have the ability to train employees to ensure standards of the hotel are met. Minimum of five (5) years of hotel/hospitality is required. Minimum of two (2) years of previous experience managing the Front Office of a hotel is required. Must be knowledgeable on Property Management System (PMS) – Opera. Excellent written and oral communication skills are necessary. Must be able to solve guest complaints and work in a high-pressured environment. Must be able to speak and understand one or more of the following languages: Korean, Japanese or Russian; Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(3) BARTENDER
Minimum one (1) year of related work experience; Must be at least 21 years old. Ability to speak Chinese, Korean, Russian or Japanese is preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) BUILDING MAINTENANCE
Minimum of three (3) years related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays

(1) CARPENTER
Minimum of three (3) years work experience as a cabinet maker and finishing carpenter. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(3) CHEF DE PARTIE
Minimum of three (3) years working in a similar capacity in a hotel, plus one (1) year of supervisory experience. Must have good management and organizational skills. Must have the ability to work independently and within a team, and have the ability to work well under pressure. Must have excellent communication skills. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

CLUBMATES
Must pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements (including a 300 yard continuous swim test); Sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply; Must possess good verbal and written communication skills; Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skill is a plus; Paid training and free two year lifeguard certification course for eligible candidates; Must be able to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) COOK
Minimum of one (1) year related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) ELECTRICAL SUPERVISOR
Minimum of one (1) year of relevant experience working in a similar position at a hotel, plus one (1) year of supervisory experience is required. Vocational degree, an Associate degree, diploma in Engineering or any combination to its equivalent in the Engineering field is required. OSHA Certified and knowledge in handling hazardous materials is required. Must be able to work in a flexible schedule which includes early mornings, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) EXECUTIVE SOUS CHEF
Minimum of six (6) years of progressive experience in high volume food production or catering in multi-unit restaurant Hotel or Resort environment. Experience preparing multi-ethnic cuisine is required. Must have at least two (2) years of supervisory experience in a similar role. Must have the following: strong leadership/communication skills at all levels of the organization. Exceptional guest focus and proven positive employee relations skills a must. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) GUEST RELATIONS
Minimum of two (2) years hospitality experience. Must have the ability in providing hotel guests with above and beyond service to ensure their experience will be worth remembering. Must have cheerful personality in meeting guest upon arrival and bids them farewell as they leave. Must be able to make strong and accurate decisions, negotiations and problem solving skills. Must have cashiering experience and computer literacy. Must be able to speak, read and write in English and one or more of the following languages: Korean, Russian, Japanese or Chinese. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) HVAC TECHNICIAN
Minimum of four (4) years related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) MUSICIAN
Minimum two (2) years experience as a musician; Must be able to perform music in English as well as Japanese/Korean/Russian; Need to be able to play a variety of music genres, classical, pop, rock, reggae, country etc. Must be able to play on an individual, duo and trio basis; At least one member must be a classical pianist, playing classical music during restaurant dining hours. Must be able to host events, MC events, be able to promote audience participation during sing-a-long shows. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays. May be subject to audition.

(1) PASTRY COOK HELPER
Minimum of two (2) years of related experience with bread making, pastry making and cake decorating. Must have previous experience in high volume production including large banquets, functions and special events. High School Diploma or higher is required. Must be able to work early mornings, nights, weekends and holidays.

(2) POOL MAINTENANCE
Minimum of two (2) years related work experience. Previous HAZMAT training preferred. Shift begins at 2:00 a.m. daily. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(1) S.E.A SCHEDULER/CLUBMATE
Must be a certified American Red Cross lifeguard with a minimum of three years of experience. Must possess excellent verbal and written communication skills. Must have working knowledge of Microsoft Word and be proficient with Microsoft Excel, with the ability to work well under pressure. Strong attention to detail and the ability to work under deadlines are necessary qualifications for the S.E.A Scheduler. Applicants must be versed in the operations and rotations of the S.E.A department. Position will be asked to work various shifts in the hotels' waterpark, so sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply; Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays. Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skills preferred.

(1) SOUS CHEF
Minimum of three (3) years of relevant experience working in a similar role for a hotel or resort environment. Experience in preparing multi-ethnic cuisine is required. Must have good knowledge of food production, food safety standards and have the ability to train and lead a team. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Tuesday, March 14th, 2017.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

World

N. Korea, Malaysia ban each other's citizens from leaving

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—North Korea said Tuesday it was banning Malaysians from leaving the country as its bitter diplomatic battle with Malaysia escalated dramatically over the poisoning death of Kim Jong Nam, the North Korean leader's estranged half brother.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said the travel ban was tantamount to hostage-taking and said his country would immediately respond in kind by banning North Koreans from leaving Malaysia.

"This abhorrent act, effectively holding our citizens hostage, is in total disregard of all international law and diplomatic norms," Najib said.

The extraordinary tit-for-tat moves intensified the breakdown in relations between the countries amid Malaysia's investigation into the bizarre murder of Kim Jong Nam in a crowded airport terminal in Kuala Lumpur on Feb. 13.

Earlier Tuesday, the North's official Korean Central News Agency said that Pyongyang was banning Malaysians from leaving the country "until the safety of the diplomats and citizens of (North Korea) in Malaysia is fully guaranteed through the fair settlement of the case that occurred in Malaysia."

Malaysia is looking for seven North Korean suspects. Three of them, including an official at the North Korean Embassy, are believed to still be in Malaysia.

Najib said, "I have also instructed the Inspector General of Police to prevent all North Korean citizens in Malaysia from leaving the country until we are assured of the safety and security of all Malaysians in North Korea."

Earlier, Malaysian officials had said the ban would affect only North Korean Embassy staff and officials, but officials expanded it to include all North Koreans. Police briefly cordoned off access to the embassy.

About 1,000 North Koreans are believed to be working in Malaysia. Before diplomatic ties disintegrated, Malaysia had been one of the few places in the world where North Koreans could travel without a visa. As a result, for years, it's been a quiet destination for Northerners looking for jobs, schools and business deals.

Malaysian Deputy Foreign Minister Reezal Marican told reporters at parliament that there are 11 Malaysians in North Korea: Three working at the Malaysian Embassy, two United Nations workers and six family members.

North Korea said Malaysian diplomats and citizens "may work and live normally under the same conditions and circumstances as before" during the period of the temporary exit ban.

It also said that the Malaysian ambassador would be expelled, although he has already been recalled to Malaysia.

Malaysia's finding that the nerve agent VX, a banned chemical weapon, killed Kim boosted speculation that North Korea was behind the attack. Experts say the oily poison was almost certainly produced in a sophisticated state weapons laboratory, and North Korea is widely believed to possess large quantities of chemical weapons, including VX.

In an attack that was caught on grainy surveillance camera footage, two women went up behind Kim as he waited for a flight and wiped something across his face. According to Malaysian investigators, the substance was VX and Kim was dead within 20 minutes.

US moves parts of controversial missile defense to SKorea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—U.S. missile launchers and other equipment needed to set up a controversial missile defense system have arrived in South Korea, the U.S. and South Korean militaries said Tuesday, a day after North Korea test-launched four ballistic missiles into the ocean near Japan.

The plans to deploy the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense system, or THAAD, within this year have angered not only North Korea, but also China and Russia, which see the system's powerful radars as a security threat.

Washington and Seoul say the system is defensive and not meant to be a threat to Beijing or Moscow.

The U.S. military said in a statement that THAAD is meant to intercept and destroy short and medium range ballistic missiles during the last part of their flights.

"Continued provocative actions by North Korea, to include yesterday's launch of multiple missiles, only confirm the prudence of our alliance decision last year to deploy THAAD to South Korea," Adm. Harry Harris, head of the U.S. Pacific Command, said in the statement.

Some South Korean liberal presidential candidates have said that the security benefits of having THAAD would be curtailed by worsened relations with neighbors China and Russia.

China's condemnation of South Korean plans to deploy THAAD has triggered protests against South Korean retail giant, Lotte, which agreed to provide one of its golf courses in southern South Korea as the site of THAAD. The South Korean government also raised worries about a reported ban on Chinese tour groups visiting the country.

An official from South Korea's Defense Ministry, who didn't want to be named, citing office rules, said that the equipment that arrived in South Korea included launchers, but didn't confirm how many.

While South Korea's media speculates that the THAAD deployment could be completed by as early as April, the ministry official couldn't confirm such reports but said the plan was to have the system operational as soon as possible.

On Monday, North Korea fired four ballistic missiles in an apparent protest against ongoing U.S.-South Korean military drills that it views as an invasion rehearsal. The missiles flew about 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) on average, three of them landing in waters that Japan claims as its exclusive economic zone, according to South Korean and Japanese officials.

The North's state media on Tuesday said leader Kim Jong Un supervised a ballistic rocket launching drill, a likely reference to the four launches reported by Seoul and Tokyo. Involved in the drills were artillery units tasked with striking "U.S. imperialist aggressor forces in Japan," according to the Korean Central News Agency.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said that the missiles fired by the North were believed to be "improved versions" of Scud missiles. South Korean experts say North Korea's extended-range Scuds and mid-range Rodong missiles are capable of hitting Japan, including U.S. military bases in Okinawa.

World

Report: Syrian children suffering 'toxic stress'

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian children show symptoms of "toxic stress" and are attempting self-harm and suicide in response to prolonged exposure to war, according to a report released Tuesday.

Children do not feel safe at school and are developing speech disorders and incontinence, and some are even losing the capacity to speak, it said.

The report from Save the Children comes as the sixth anniversary of the Syrian war approaches and it calls on all sides to prioritize mental health issues before children develop lasting complications they will carry into adulthood.

"After six years of war, we are at a tipping point, after which the impact on children's formative years and childhood development may be so great that the damage could be permanent and irreversible," said Marcia Brophy, a mental health adviser for Save the Children in the Middle East. "The risk of a broken generation, lost to trauma and extreme stress, has never been greater."

Researchers spoke with 450 children, adolescents and adults in seven of Syria's 14 governorates.

Adults said the main cause of psychological stress is the constant shelling and bombardment that characterize the war.

Schools and hospitals have been regularly targeted, destroying the very institutions that can support traumatized children when they need it most.

According to the report, 80 percent of those interviewed said children have become more aggressive and 71 percent said children increasingly suffer from frequent bedwetting and involuntary urination—"both common symptoms of toxic stress and post-traumatic stress disorder among children."

AP
In this picture taken, Feb. 16, 2017, a child looks out from an abandoned petrol station where he and his family now live.

The researchers also found that two-thirds of the children had lost a loved one, had their houses bombed or shelled, or suffered war-related injuries.

Save the Children said the survey was the first focusing on the mental health of children still living in Syria. It said that at least 3 million children are estimated to be living in areas with exposure to high explosive weapons and that at least 3 million youngsters under age 6 know nothing but war.

"We are failing children inside Syria, some of whom are being left to cope with harrowing experiences, from witnessing their parents killed in front of them to the horrors of life under siege, without proper support," Brophy said.

The New York-based Physicians for Human Rights has said more than 90 percent of attacks on medical facilities in Syria are carried out by pro-government forces. An earlier report by the group said the Syrian government "systematically violated" the principle of medical neutrality by targeting medical facilities and doctors; detaining patients; and arresting, torturing and executing doctors. It said that has caused medical professionals to flee the country.

Iraq welcomes removal from revised US travel ban

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq welcomed its removal from a revised U.S. travel ban on Monday, saying the move would strengthen its alliance with Washington as U.S.-backed Iraqi forces battle the Islamic State group in Mosul.

Iraq was among seven Muslim-majority countries whose nationals were temporarily banned from traveling to the United States in an earlier order issued by President Donald Trump in January, which sparked worldwide outrage and was blocked by the courts.

The White House says the ban is needed to prevent would-be terrorists from entering the country while stricter vetting measures are put in place. But it removed Iraq from the list under pressure from the State Department and the Defense Department, which had noted the close cooperation between the two countries in battling the IS group.

"Today our battle in Mosul is a battle that Iraqis are conducting on behalf of the entire world," Foreign Ministry spokesman Ahmed Jamal told The Associated Press, adding that the revision of the travel ban will "enhance" the U.S.-Iraqi partnership in that fight.

The original order angered many Iraqis, and prompted parliament to call for a reciprocal ban on Americans entering Iraq. Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi declined to impose such a measure.

New Trump travel ban

President Donald Trump's new immigration order will remove Iraq from the list of countries whose citizens face a temporary U.S. travel ban. The revised order specifies that a 90-day ban on people from the other six countries does not apply to those who already have valid visas or people with U.S. green cards.

Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

WORLD BRIEFS

Suspected extremists kill at least 5 gendarmes in Niger

NIAMEY, Niger (AP)—Niger's defense ministry says at least five gendarmes have been killed in an attack near the country's western border with Mali. The ministry says the attack by armed suspected extremists early Monday in Wanzarbe in the Bankilare department also left one gendarme wounded. The ministry says on television that forces are in the zone to combat any suspected extremists still there. No further details have been released. Two weeks ago Islamic extremists killed at least 15 soldiers along that border in the Tillaberi region. The attacks follow a February agreement among the presidents of five countries in Africa's vast Sahel region to set up a joint counterterrorism force. Mali, Niger, Mauritania, Burkina Faso and Chad have been targeted by numerous extremist groups, including Boko Haram and others linked to al-Qaida.

Top Israeli rabbi tells PM to act against US anti-Semitism

JERUSALEM (AP)—An Israeli chief rabbi on Monday implored Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to speak up about a recent wave of anti-Semitism and Jewish cemetery vandalism in the United States. Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Yosef called on Netanyahu and Israeli diplomats "not to be silent about the phenomenon of Jewish cemetery desecration." Yosef spoke at a ceremony marking a deadly 1992 bombing at the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires. Netanyahu is usually vocal against global anti-Semitism but issued a muted response to recent acts targeting U.S Jewish institutions. Critics in Israel say Netanyahu may be looking to protect his ally, President Donald Trump, who is accused of stirring up xenophobia. "We have to raise a very clear voice to work as much as possible to stop these anti-Semitic acts," Yosef said.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

†Donicia Mettao Lifoifoi

Born on July 16, 1954 and was called to her eternal rest on February 21, 2017 at Tacoma General Hospital, Washington.

In Her New Life She Now Joins Her:

Husband: †Martin Igitol Lifoifoi
Parents: †Bonifacio Faibar Mettao
& †Francisca Taisacan Fitipol
Brother: †Vicente F. Mettao
Parents-In-Law: †Pedro Camacho Lifoifoi
& †Estefania Igitol Lifoifoi
Cousin and Best Friend: †Virginia Norita Mahora
Brother-In-Law: †Ralph Kosak
Uncle-In-Law: †Katu Camacho Castro
Cousin-In-Law: †Victorino Nekai Igitol
Cousin-In-Law: †Bertha Lifoifoi Phillips

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Children:
Lorenzo M. & Shana Lifoifoi (Keanu)
Elena L. & Eduardo Massena
Teresa L. & Jackson James (Jaden)

Brothers, Sisters, and In-Laws:
†Vicente F. / Magdalena I. Mettao *(Jaime M. / Alex O. Igisomar and children, Bonifacio Juan I. / Lorraine E. Mettao and children, Suwel Silveria I. Mettao)*
Rita M. & Ramon Castro *(Raymond John, Rudolpho Jose, Rita Juana and children, Raegina Jazmine)*
Jose F. Mettao
Alexander F. & Mae K. Mettao *(Savanah Mae / Raymondo Mahilum and daughter, Lourdes Ana)*
Emiliana M. & Antonio Reyes
Antonia M. & Lal Prasad Ghale
Joaquin F. & Bernadita Mettao
Patroicinia M. & James Pua *(Lou Frances Doreen)*

Brothers, Sisters-In-Laws:
Naminanda Lifoifoi
Ursula L. & Frank Aldan *(Plumeria, Sky, Oceana, Sunshine)*

She will be remembered by numerous Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, Nieces, Nephews, and Godchildren.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, March 09, 2017. Viewing will be from 6:30am-9:00am at the Borja Funeral Home. Her remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home to Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag at 9:00am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am followed by interment services at the Tanapag Cemetery where she will be laid to her peaceful rest.

Your thoughts, presence, prayers are sincerely appreciated.
Children, Siblings and Families

Good Housekeeping

How to build better soil? Stop treating it like dirt

By DEBBIE ARRINGTON
THE SACRAMENTO BEE

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—The key to a great garden? Look under your feet and start valuing your soil.

"We treat soil like dirt, and they are not the same thing," said noted soil scientist Steve Andrews, the "Compost Crusader." "Dirt is the stuff that your nosy next-door neighbor likes to dig up on you. Dirt is the stuff in your vacuum cleaner. Dirt gets on your clothes, the kids, the dog and the cat. But dirt is not soil.

"Soil is a living treasure, an amalgam of sand, silt, clay, organic matter, air and water, transformed by time, climate, topography, biology, parent material—and us."

Soil should be alive and teeming with microbes. It's those infinitesimally small critters that help plants be the best they can be.

"You cannot have healthy, productive plants without a healthy, living soil," said Steven Zien, a soil expert in Sacramento.

How many microbes? Consider these facts from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service:

■ One cup of soil can hold more bacteria than there are people on Earth.

■ A single spadeful of rich garden soil contains more living species than can be found above ground in the entire Amazon rainforest.

■ If you packed all the microbes from an acre of land together, they would weigh as much as two cows.

"We know more about things a billion light years away than about what's happening 6 inches under our feet, " said Zien, founder of Living Resources Co. in Sacramento, which provides soil and organic gardening consulting.

Microbes play a vital role in soil health.

"Good, healthy soil is alive with beneficial soil organisms known as the soil food web," Zien said. "These organisms create soil structure, improving drainage and aeration. Nutrients and moisture are stored by the soil biology that makes them available to plant roots, minimizing the need for fertilizer and irrigation. They also provide plant growth hormones and fight off pests, allowing your plants to grow—healthy, pest-resistant and drought-tolerant."

Years of drought severely stressed our soils—and microbes.

"Our soils are scorched," said Gisele Schoniger of Kellogg Garden Products in Carson. "They need replenishment more than fertilizer."

As Kellogg's longtime organic gardening educator, Schoniger teaches gardeners throughout the West how to take better care of their soil.

The lack of water actually can change soil's acidity (or pH) level.

"The less water, the higher the pH and the more alkaline your soil becomes," she said. "The more water, the lower the pH. Organic matter helps stabilize pH and keep it in the right zone, the neutral zone (in the middle of the pH scale). If the pH is too high or too low, plants can't use all the nutrients (available in the soil). ... Organic matter stabilizes the pH and holds it there."

TNS

Vermiculite —made from magnesium silicates—holds water and is an additive that can make your soil better. Good soil is the key to great gardens but what can you do if don't have it? Local and regional experts on dirt vs. soil give their secrets to a better and more productive ground.

TNS

Worm castings—rich in nitrogen and good microbes—are an additive that can make your soil better.

TNS

Chicken manure—rich in nitrogen—is an additive that can make your soil better.

Organic matter—compost, manure, shredded bark, rice hulls, coconut fiber, peat moss, kelp, bone meal and other natural amendments—does more than keep pH in balance. It feeds those microbes.

"Organic matter is the fuel that makes the whole system work," she said. "If you do nothing else, put down organic material around your garden."

Organic matter also helps soil absorb and store water. After recent winter storms, some landscapes—especially in areas with clay soil—developed their own issues. They got waterlogged.

"The most important thing to do when your soil is wet is nothing," Zien said. "Walking on or working a wet soil causes compaction, making it difficult for water, fertilizer, air, beneficial soil biology and roots to move through and function in the soil."

For backyard swamps, Zien has this advice:

"Wait until the soil dries out a little and top-dress with worm castings," he said. "The soil biology it contains will move into the soil with subsequent rains. These critters will create soil structure that will open up poorly draining clay soils, improving drainage and aeration.

"In spring, when the soil dries out a bit more, aerate the soil. Follow that with an application of an organic fertilizer, more earthworm castings and compost. Avoid tilling your soil—that actually causes soil compaction."

Those worm castings have an added benefit, Schoniger said. They fight whiteflies and other garden pests.

Sprinkle the castings in a circle around the plant (at the dripline for trees or shrubs), then cover with mulch and let the castings work down into the soil.

Besides being rich in nutrients, worm castings contain a substance that naturally breaks down insect skeletons, she said. But water will bead up on pure castings; they need a little mulch on top to do their garden magic.

"Worm castings are the best value you can get for your garden," she said. "A whitefly won't go near a plant that could break its body down."

BUILD BETTER SOIL

Your soil is alive and teeming with microorganisms. Plants need these microbes to break down nutrients.

■ Feed the soil, not the plants. Microbes eat organic material such as dead leaves, compost, worm castings and manure. In turn, they process this food into water-soluble nutrients that plants absorb through their roots.

■ Microbes need to breathe. To operate efficiently, microbes require tiny pockets of air in soil. If the ground is constantly saturated, they drown. Anaerobic (bad) bacteria, which can survive without air, take over and produce alcohol – and plant roots rot.

■ Soil has structure; don't rip it up. Repeated tilling and churning collapses the soil structure, contributing to the formation of hardpan, an impenetrable layer of clay. By treating soil with tenderness, air pockets are not disturbed. Instead, layer organic material on top; microbes will come up to get it.

■ Soil has texture. That texture comes from the mix of gritty sand, smooth silt and sticky clay. Knowing how much of each ingredient is the key to understanding how that soil will perform.

■ Test your soil before adding amendments. Know your soil's pH—its acidity or alkalinity. Inexpensive pH test kits are available at nurseries and home-improvement centers. The lower the number, the more acidic the soil; higher numbers are more alkaline. Most plants prefer "neutral" soil—6.5 to 7.0 on the pH scale. Acid-loving plants such as camellias and azaleas prefer a pH of 5.0 to 6.0. Never go to extremes on the scale. Other basic soil tests measure macronutrients—nitrogen, phosphate and potassium—that are the primary building blocks for plant growth. More extensive testing will measure secondary nutrients—calcium, magnesium and sulfur—and micronutrients including iron, copper, boron and zinc. These other nutrients act like vitamins for plants, promoting health and strong growth, but too much can be fatal.

■ Building good soil takes time. Don't expect overnight results. When making adjustments, take baby steps.

LEARN MORE ONLINE

■ www.organiclandscape.com: Soil expert Steven Zien's website has several articles and links on building better soil. He also offers extensive soil testing with organic recommendations. Or call 916-726-5377.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. **17-014** Opening Date: **Thursday, February 23, 2017**
Closing Date: **Thursday, March 09, 2017**

Laboratory Technician

LOCATION(S): **Water & Wastewater Laboratory, Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITION(S): One (1).

JVA No. **17-015** Opening Date: **Thursday, February 23, 2017**
Closing Date: **Thursday, March 09, 2017**

Trades Assistant

LOCATION(S): **Water & Wastewater Engineering, Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITION(S): One (1).

JVA No. **17-016** Opening Date: **Thursday, February 23, 2017**
Closing Date: **Thursday, March 09, 2017**

Engineering Technician (Construction Inspector)

LOCATION(S): **Water & Wastewater Engineering, Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITION(S): One (1).

JVA No. **17-017** Opening Date: **Thursday, February 23, 2017**
Closing Date: **Thursday, March 09, 2017**

Junior Engineer

LOCATION(S): **Water & Wastewater Laboratory, Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITION(S): One (1).

JVA No. **17-018** Opening Date: **Thursday, February 23, 2017**
Closing Date: **Thursday, March 09, 2017**

Trades Assistant

LOCATION(S): **Wastewater Division, Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITION(S): Six (6).

JVA No. **17-019** Opening Date: **Thursday, February 23, 2017**
Closing Date: **Thursday, March 09, 2017**

Direct Responsible Charge

LOCATION(S): **Wastewater Division, Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITION(S): One (1).

JVA No. **17-020** Opening Date: **Thursday, February 23, 2017**
Closing Date: **Thursday, March 09, 2017**

Trades Assistant

LOCATION(S): **Water Division, Saipan,** Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITION(S): One (1).

JVA No. **17-021** Opening Date: **Thursday, February 23, 2017**
Closing Date: **Thursday, March 09, 2017**

Trades Technician

LOCATION(S): **Water Division, Saipan,** Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITION(S): Two (2).

JVA No. **17-022** Opening Date: **Thursday, February 23, 2017**
Closing Date: **Thursday, March 09, 2017**

Senior Trades Technician

LOCATION(S): **Water Division, Saipan,** Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITION(S): One (1).

JVA No. **17-023** Opening Date: **Thursday, February 23, 2017**
Closing Date: **Thursday, March 09, 2017**

Trades Foreperson

LOCATION(S): **Water Division, Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITION(S): One (1).

JVA No. **17-024** Opening Date: **Thursday, February 23, 2017**
Closing Date: **Thursday, March 09, 2017**

Trades Supervisor

LOCATION(S): **Water Division, Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITION(S): One (1).

JVA No. **17-025** Opening Date: **Thursday, February 23, 2017**
Closing Date: **Thursday, March 09, 2017**

Utility Coordinator (Water System Operations Supervisor)

LOCATION(S): **Water Division, Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITION(S): One (1).

JVA No. **17-026** Opening Date: **Thursday, February 23, 2017**
Closing Date: **Thursday, March 09, 2017**

Trades Technician: Operator

LOCATION(S): **Power Generation, Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITION(S): Six (6).

JVA No. **17-027** Opening Date: **Thursday, February 23, 2017**
Closing Date: **Thursday, March 09, 2017**

Trades Technician: Mechanic

LOCATION(S): **Power Generation, Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITION(S): Twelve (12).

JVA No. **17-028** Opening Date: **Thursday, February 23, 2017**
Closing Date: **Thursday, March 09, 2017**

Trades Technician: Electrical

LOCATION(S): **Power Generation, Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITION(S): Five (5).

JVA No. **17-029** Opening Date: **Thursday, February 23, 2017**
Closing Date: **Thursday, March 09, 2017**

Trades Technician: Warehouse

LOCATION(S): **Power Generation, Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITION(S): One (1).

JVA No. **17-030** Opening Date: **Thursday, February 23, 2017**
Closing Date: **Thursday, March 09, 2017**

Trades Foreperson: Mechanic

LOCATION(S): **Power Generation, Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITION(S): One (1).

JVA No. **17-031** Opening Date: **Thursday, February 23, 2017**
Closing Date: **Thursday, March 09, 2017**

Trades Foreperson: Electrical

LOCATION(S): **Power Generation, Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITION(S): One (1).

JVA No. **17-032** Opening Date: **Thursday, February 23, 2017**
Closing Date: **Thursday, March 09, 2017**

Safety Compliance Administrator

LOCATION(S):: **Administration / Safety Office, Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITION(S): One (1).

JVA No. **17-033** Opening Date: **Thursday, February 23, 2017**
Closing Date: **Thursday, March 09, 2017**

Safety Compliance Technician

LOCATION(S): **Administration / Safety Office, Tinian**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITION(S): One (1).

JVA No. **17-034** Opening Date: **Thursday, February 23, 2017**
Closing Date: **Thursday, March 09, 2017**

Assistant Engineer: Mechanical

LOCATION(S): **Rota Power Plant, Rota**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITION(S): One (1).

JVA No. **17-035** Opening Date: **Thursday, February 23, 2017**
Closing Date: **Thursday, March 09, 2017**

Assistant Engineer: Electrical

LOCATION(S): **Rota Power Plant, Rota**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITION(S): One (1).

JVA No. **17-036** Opening Date: **Thursday, February 23, 2017**
Closing Date: **Thursday, March 09, 2017**

Senior Engineering Technician

LOCATION(S): **Water & Wastewater Engineering, Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITION(S): One (1).

For minimum requirements and full description, stop by or contact the Human Resource Office.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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P.O. Box 501220 Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA
Tel No. (670) 664-4282 Fax No. (670) 235-5131

Life & Style

Bill Paxton died from stroke suffered after surgery

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bill Paxton's death certificate states the actor died last month from a stroke days after surgery to replace a heart valve and repair damage to his aorta.

The aorta is the main artery that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body.

The prolific actor died late on Feb. 25. That was 11 days after the surgery.

The document was first reported Monday by celebrity website TMZ.

Paxton

It states Paxton was cremated and his remains interred at Forest Lawn-Hollywood Hills, which is the final resting place of many Hollywood stars.

Paxton starred in films such as "Twister," ''Titanic'' and "Aliens" and the HBO series "Big Love."

His death was announced hours before the Oscars.

That prompted several celebrities to share remembrances of him on the red carpet.

Lithgow keeps you guessing, and laughing, in 'Trial & Error'

NEW YORK (AP)—Did he do it?

He does it. John Lithgow, who stars in NBC's daffy new comedy "Trial & Error" as a poetry prof who may or may not have murdered his wife, is clearly guilty of making viewers laugh.

He's also guilty, in a career spanning nearly a half-century, of freaking out viewers (item: his chilling psycho-killer in the Showtime series "Dexter"), or warming the heart with his character's humanity (such as his breakout performance as Roberta Muldoon, the transgender former pro football player in "The World According to Garp").

His birth certificate identifies him as John Arthur Lithgow, but as an actor, his middle name is "Versatile."

To wit: Right now he can be seen in the acclaimed Netflix series "The Crown" as British Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

Meanwhile, he plays eccentric Larry Henderson on "Trial & Error," which premieres with back-to-back episodes on March 14.

Like the dead-serious docuseries (such as "Making a Murderer" and "The Staircase") it spoofs, "Trial & Error" tracks its wacky murder case across the season's 13 episodes, with Larry's innocence or guilt, and the verdict, kept under wraps until the finale.

Meanwhile, it surrounds Larry with fellow oddballs played by co-stars Steven Boyer, Sherri Shepherd, Krysta Rodriguez, Jayma Mays and Nicholas D'Agosto as an eager young New York lawyer who lands in this quirky Southern town to represent Larry, who can't help undermining his own claim of innocence: "I did NOT kill my wife," he moans before adding with a chuckle, "Back in the day, I was known as a lady killer."

TWINS ON THE WAY AP

This Feb. 12, 2017, file photo, shows Beyonce performing at the 59th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles. Beyonce shared photos of her growing baby bump on her website Monday, March 6, 2017. She and husband Jay Z are expecting twins.

Spielberg, Streep, Hanks may team for Pentagon Papers movie

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hollywood dream team Steven Spielberg, Tom Hanks and Meryl Streep are considering taking on some classified government documents in a feature film about the Pentagon Papers case.

Streep

Spielberg

A source close to the project who spoke only on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly said Monday that Spielberg has signed on to direct "The Post," a co-production from Fox and Amblin Entertainment.

Based on a script by Liz Hannah, the film will focus on The Washington Post's 1971 publication of the classified Vietnam War study after a federal judge barred the New York Times from further coverage. The Times had previously published a series of articles from the critical report after military analyst Daniel Ellsberg leaked the top secret documents.

In defiance of the government's efforts to block coverage on grounds of national security concerns, Washington Post publisher Katharine Graham joined forces with the New York Times in a legal battle over their right to publish. The case went to the Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of the press.

According to a report by the Hollywood trade publication Deadline, Hanks is in talks to play Washington Post editor Ben Bradlee—which would mark his fifth outing with Spielberg—and Streep is in negotiations for the part of Graham.

Not unlike Graham, Streep recently has established herself as a powerful voice in support of the press and in opposition to the current administration.

In a speech at the Golden Globe Awards in January, Streep passionately defended the freedom of the press to "hold power to account" and urged audiences to support the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Reps for Spielberg, Streep and Hanks did not immediately respond to request for comment.

Gab session with gal pal leaves wife feeling hurt

DEAR ABBY: I read your column all the time. My husband and I have been married for 35 years. My husband has good friends who are women, and I have never objected when he stayed with them when he traveled from our home to Michigan.

One of the women he stays with called and they talked for hours. That's not right is it? My husband says she's just a good friend and it's only conversation.

Like I said, I didn't mind him staying with her because I trusted him. But now I'm leery and suspicious. I don't believe it's a sexual thing, but a long conversation hurts me more because I thought I was his best friend.

I told him, "Let's get counseling. If it doesn't work, we can divorce." He said, "You're not going to stop me from talking to my friends."

Abby, I need your opinion.

LEERY IN FLORIDA

DEAR LEERY: Whatever is going on, you and your husband are having a communication problem. Instead of raising the subject of divorce with him, it may be time for you to get marriage counseling, alone if he won't go with you.

Your husband should be able to talk to his friends—male and female—if he wishes. For you to tell him otherwise makes you look more like his jailer than his wife. Some mediation may help you feel less threatened and help you both to get back on the same page.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 39-year-old female who hasn't been able to conceive. My sister has two children and one on the way. I love being an aunt, but I do want to be a mom myself. I'm recently divorced and have a nice home, a dependable vehicle and a job that I love. The only thing missing in my life is a child.

I have the opportunity to adopt a newborn baby from a family who is unable to care for her. She will be born in the next few months. When I speak to my friends and family about it, even though they would love for me to have a child, they say they don't think this is the right path for me. Although I want a child and always have, I'm now having concerns about it, too. Any advice you could share would be greatly appreciated.

MOTHERLY INSTINCT IN GEORGIA

DEAR INSTINCT: I wish you had been clearer about why your family doesn't feel that adopting the baby would be the right path for you. However, since you weren't, let me offer this:

Many single parents—whether single because of divorce, widowhood or by choice—successfully raise children. At 39, with a home and a good job, you appear to be financially secure enough to provide for a child. Unless you have an emotional problem you didn't mention, or lack the patience to be a good mother, I see no reason why you shouldn't become one. However, because your friends and family have created doubt, discuss this with a counselor to clarify your thinking.

DEAR ABBY: What should I say to someone who expects an invitation to a wedding but will not be receiving one and they ask why they didn't get one?

WHERE'S MY INVITATION?

DEAR WHERE'S: If someone is nervy enough to ask why he or she was not invited to the wedding, all you have to say is that for logistical reasons you had to limit your guest list.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

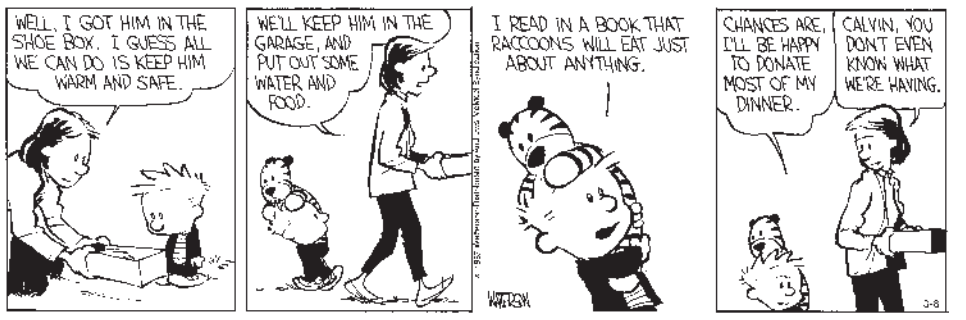
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

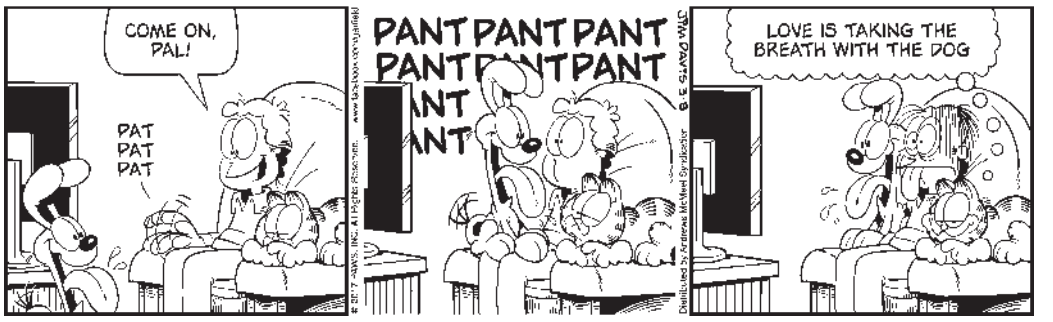
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WELL, I GOT HIM IN THE SHOE BOX. I GUESS ALL WE CAN DO IS KEEP HIM WARM AND SAFE.
WE'LL KEEP HIM IN THE GARAGE, AND PUT OUT SOME WATER AND FOOD.
I READ IN A BOOK THAT RACCOONS WILL EAT JUST ABOUT ANYTHING.
WATTERSON
CHANCES ARE, I'LL BE HAPPY TO DONATE MOST OF MY DINNER.
CALVIN, YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT WE'RE HAVING.
3-8

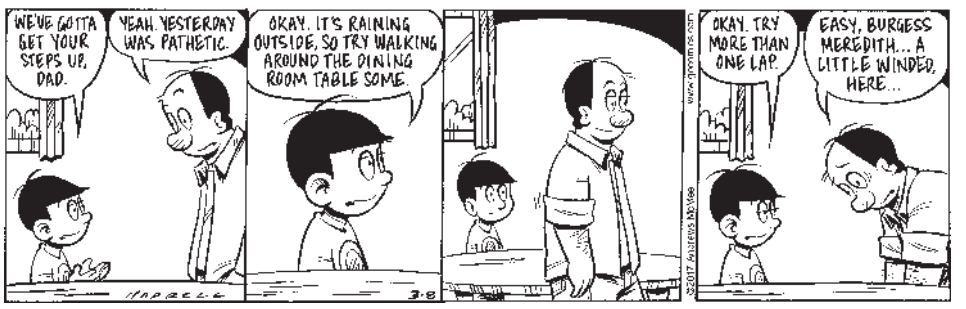
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



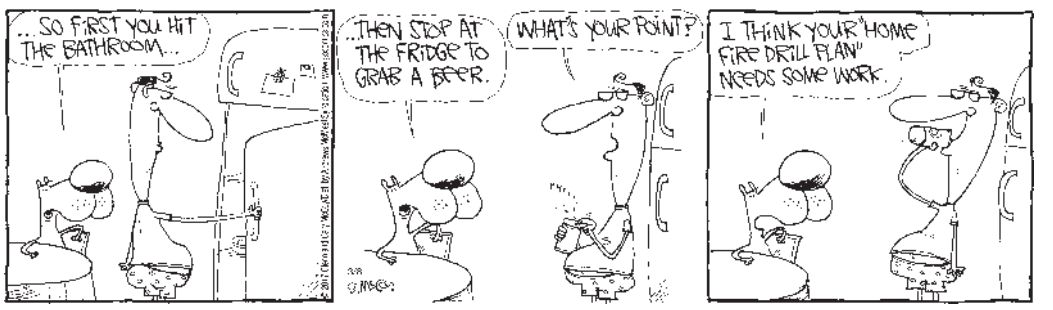
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WE'VE GOTTA GET YOUR STEPS UP, DAD.
YEAH. YESTERDAY WAS PATHETIC.
OKAY. IT'S RAINING OUTSIDE, SO TRY WALKING AROUND THE DINING ROOM TABLE SOME.
OKAY. TRY MORE THAN ONE LAP.
EASY, BURGESS MEREDITH... A LITTLE WINDED, HERE...
3-8

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


...SO FIRST YOU HIT THE BATHROOM...
...THEN STOP AT THE FRIDGE TO GRAB A BEER.
WHAT'S YOUR POINT?
I THINK YOUR "HOME FIRE DRILL PLAN" NEEDS SOME WORK.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

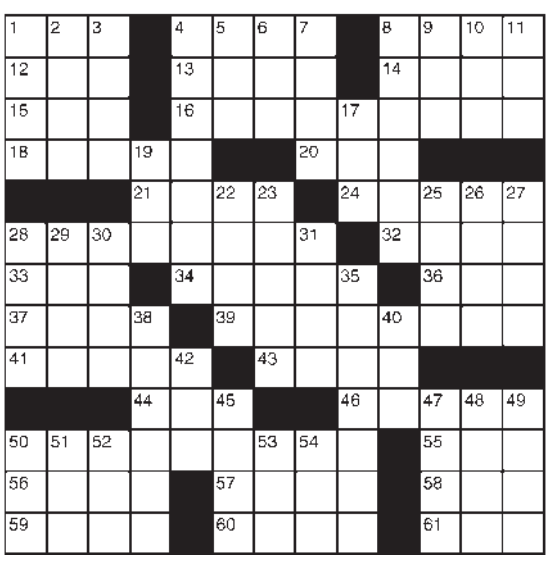
ACROSS
1 Glacial
4 Vow
8 Made into lumber
12 That girl
13 Lady of the haus
14 Skin soother
15 Extinct bird
16 Equal chance
18 Rides the waves
20 Meadow
21 Sty cry
24 Treasure stash
28 Truman's policy
32 La Scala solo
33 Recede
34 Goofed
36 Some coll. degrees
37 Advanced math
39 Patterned sweater style
41 Painter's stand
43 Hammer's target
44 Trendy
46 Barely manage
50 Alaskan city
55 Scary cry
56 Hotel chain
57 Stead
58 Moreover
59 Sound from Big Ben
60 Crisp cookie
61 Pro vote

DOWN
1 Doctrines
2 — En-lai
3 Revolution period
4 Gridiron infraction
5 Coach Parseghian
6 — chi
7 Throw hard
8 African desert
9 Carte lead-in
10 Stir-fry pan
11 Born
17 Fixed
19 In favor of
22 Soft ball brand
23 Designer Donna
25 Spheres
26 Test tube
27 Lighten
28 Lavish party
29 Start of a spell
30 Nile bird
31 "Star Wars" princess
35 Evaporates
38 Baseball great Lou
40 Sort
42 Ad- — (improvise)
45 Buddies
47 Online auction site
48 Dog biscuit shape
49 Luke's teacher
50 Watch chain
51 I love (Lat.)
52 Hostel
53 Diarist Anaïs
54 Mauna —

Solution time: 25 mins.

B	U	F	F	■	P	E	T	A	■	A	F	T
O	K	R	A	■	U	L	A	N	■	L	I	E
P	E	A	J	A	C	K	E	T	■	L	A	S
■	■	■	I	C	E	S	■	E	D	I	S	■
C	A	S	I	S	■	■	C	N	E	G	■	■
R	I	P	A	■	C	O	R	N	B	A	L	L
A	D	C	■	A	O	R	T	A	■	T	O	E
B	E	A	N	B	A	G	S	■	G	O	G	O
■	■	■	R	E	S	T	■	■	H	J	R	O	N
S	U	M	A	C	■	C	H	A	I	■	■	■
A	R	I	■	O	N	I	O	N	D	O	M	E
G	I	N	■	N	A	T	E	■	E	W	A	N
E	S	T	■	D	E	E	D	■	D	E	A	D

Yesterday's answer 3-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: James Van Der Beek, 40; Freddie Prinze Jr., 41; Camryn Manheim, 56; Aidan Quinn, 58.

Happy Birthday: Make changes for the right reasons. Following someone who appears to be knowledgeable will leave you at a loss. Trust in your abilities and refuse to let anyone talk you into something you cannot afford or that you find questionable this year. Good fortune will result from honest hard work and having a keen perception of what's currently trending. Your numbers are 4, 11, 18, 24, 31, 35, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19)*: Play fair. Stick to the rules and be careful not to get into a battle that makes no sense. Sticking to a simple plan that is reasonable for everyone involved will help keep bad feelings and unnecessary arguments at bay. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20)*: Don't let emotions stand in your way. If you don't see eye-to-eye with someone you live with, it's best to do your own thing and avoid getting into a no-win debate. Your home should be tranquil, not filled with turmoil. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20)*: Anger is best channeled into something constructive. Pick a creative outlet or sign up for a physical challenge that is geared toward fitness and better health. Don't trust someone who dishes out compliments with ulterior motives. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22)*: Assist one of your peers in lieu of getting the help you need in return. Give and take will be necessary if you want to reach your goals. Use your intelligence to uncover information that will help you advance. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22)*: Emotions will rise to the surface, giving you reason to question your position, past achievements and future prospects. Plan to get together with people who can help you bring about positive changes. A pick-me-up will do you good. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*: You have to participate if you want to bring about change. Don't complain if you aren't willing to do the grunt work required to get things done. Sometimes you have to go outside your comfort zone to accomplish your goals. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)*: Ease into topics that can change the dynamics of an important partnership. Honesty and diplomacy will be required if you want to find common ground. Romance will aid you in making amends as well as helping you get your way. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)*: Don't be afraid to be different. It's your uniqueness that will attract attention. Anyone who doesn't approve should probably be left behind. Surround yourself with creative people who are willing to accept you as you are. Don't give in to emotional manipulation. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)*: You'll be facing important choices. Avoid getting into senseless debates with people who will never see things your way. Change begins within, so tidy up your personal matters and live life your own way. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*: Let your intuition take over when dealing with emotional matters. Whether you are dealing with an outsider or someone close to you, disagreements will be the result of not seeing eye-to-eye. Choose to do your own thing. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)*: Be careful how you handle emotional situations at work or at home. Trouble will set in if you are too vocal or persistent about the way you want things done. Don't overreact when you should be choosing a peaceful alternative. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20)*: Think before you act. Someone will tempt you with information that lacks truth and substance. Trust in what you know and what you are capable of doing. Push your own ideas instead of helping someone else get ahead. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are pioneering, assertive and clever. You are helpful and quick to react.

Eugenia's websites -- eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			7	4	9	6	1	5
			3					9
			6					2
			8					7
			5					6
	9	7	2			8	5	4
7			1		3			8
2			4		6			3
	6	4				5	2	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	7	5	8	1	3	9	4	2
4	3	1	2	9	6	7	5	8
8	2	9	5	4	7	6	3	1
7	9	2	6	3	4	1	8	5
1	8	3	9	2	5	4	6	7
5	6	4	1	7	8	3	2	9
9	1	8	4	6	2	5	7	3
3	5	6	7	8	1	2	9	4
2	4	7	3	5	9	8	1	6

Difficulty level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LILLY PULITZER, ICONIC FASHION DESIGNER Sol.: 11 letters

P	S	S	E	L	S	I	A	E	S	U	N	K	E	N
I	O	E	T	O	W	E	L	K	F	D	R	Y	I	E
X	L	P	L	N	Ⓔ	Ⓚ	Ⓘ	Ⓛ	R	E	L	M	C	U
A	I	I	U	Y	I	R	O	E	T	L	M	I	O	Q
M	Z	N	F	L	T	R	S	E	I	A	T	N	N	I
R	A	E	R	S	A	S	P	L	J	A	S	N	I	R
O	H	A	O	L	E	R	A	E	U	N	C	I	C	N
T	C	P	L	S	I	C	B	Q	G	G	I	E	U	E
S	A	P	O	N	I	S	A	A	A	I	R	A	A	R
D	H	L	C	P	E	Z	Q	U	R	S	B	D	E	U
N	C	E	O	I	E	E	E	N	D	E	A	I	S	S
A	S	R	L	O	F	P	R	E	E	D	F	R	S	A
S	T	L	P	F	L	A	M	I	N	G	O	O	U	E
J	E	W	E	L	R	Y	J	O	Y	F	U	L	O	R
J	L	I	F	E	S	A	P	A	R	T	Y	F	R	T

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Aquatic, Barefoot, Colorful, Design, Dresses, Enrique, Fabrics, Flamingo, Floral, Florida, Garden, Iconic, Jellies Be Jammin, Jewelry, Joyful, Let's Cha Cha, Life's a Party, Like, Lilly, Liza, Maxi, Minnie, Peter, Pineapple, Popular, Princess, Prints, Rousseau, Sandstorm, Sea Isle, Size, Skirts, Styles, Sunken, Towel, Treasure, Tropical

Yesterday's Answer: Best Boy

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 or 24 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

1 Accountant, 2 Maids & Housekeeping Cleaner, 1 Plumber, 2 General Maintenance & Repair Worker, 1 Carpenter, minimum salary. Please mail resume to Life Care Center International Inc. P.O. Box 505478, Saipan MP 96950 or call 670-288-6903/04 look for Robert

1 Operation Manager, 1 Marketing Manager, $36,000 per year. Please mail resume to Blue Lagoon Realty Inc. P.O. Box 505478, Saipan MP 96950 or call 670-288-6903/04 look for Robert

2 Maintenance & Repair Workers, 2 Computer Support Specialist, minimum salary. Mail resume to MTO Maintenance (Saipan), Inc. at P.O. Box 504053, Saipan MP 96950.

WHATZIT Solution: Alphabet soup

HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) WAREHOUSE MAN
(2) FOOD SERVICE WORKER

Interested applicants may send their resume to sales.saipan@hermansbakery.com or pick-up an application form at our HR office at Tun Herman Pan (Airport Road)

Philpan International Inc.
(1) Sales Representative
At Least 3 yrs
Experience in Sales
Peachtree Invoicing Literate
Contact No. 783-0367

Century Tours, Inc.

invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Tour Guide (6)
High School Diploma or GED with a minimum of six (6) months to one (1) year experience in travel or tour operation, sales or service related field. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes. Fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese languages.

Interested applicants may send their resumes to savi_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than 5:00PM on March 15, 2017. Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Century Tours Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Applicants must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Century Tours, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

GA-ZPACHO

WH-ATZ-IT?® 2017 www.whatzit.com Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd.
Invites qualified US workers to apply for the following positions:

Lead Aircraft Maintenance Technician (1)

Requires: AS Degree in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and/or Aeronautical Engineering with 4 years experience in airframe and power plant maintenance on both narrow and wide-body aircraft. Heads shift or work project, as directed by the manager, performing various repairs on aircraft airframe and power plants and other required services to ensure airworthiness. Must be skilled in the use of specialized aircraft testing equipment and hold current U.S. FAA A&P License or an equivalent foreign license. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Interested applicants may send their applications to Int_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than March 17, 2017. Applications for employment are available at the Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

L&T Group of Companies, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans
and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Century Tours, Inc. invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Customer Service Agent, full-time (1)
High school diploma or equivalent. Two (02) months work experience in Travel or Tour operation or sales or service based work environment. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English, Korean, Japanese, or Chinese languages. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes.

Customer Service Agent, part-time (4)
High school diploma or equivalent. Two (02) months work experience in Travel or Tour operation or sales or service based work environment. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English, Korean, Japanese, or Chinese languages. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes.

Interested applicants may obtain application forms from the Front Office of Century Tours, Inc., located at the ground floor of the Kanoa Resort on Beach Road in Susupe, Saipan. Offices are open Sunday-Saturday from 9 AM-6 PM. Worker's compensation provided. Applications and/or resumes may also be emailed to ceti_recruitment@tanholdings.com until **March 15, 2017**. Incumbents must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.
Drug testing is required prior to employment.

Century Tours, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following vacant position:

Accountants (2)
Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work related experience in financial management and/or payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and Power Point software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Graphic Designer (1)
Associate's degree in Fine Arts, Graphic Design or other related areas. Minimum of 3 years work experience in creating graphics to meet specific commercial or promotional needs. Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign is a must. Strong organizational and self-management skills, including the ability to multi-task and prioritize are required. Can work flexible hours, depending on demand

Application forms may be obtained and submitted to our Security Office located on the South Wing of Fiesta Resort & Spa. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Wednesday, March 15, 2017.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd.
Invites qualified US workers to apply for the following positions:

Aircraft Maintenance Technician (7)
Requires: Graduate of Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and/or Aeronautical Engineering program with 2 years experience in airframe and power plant maintenance on both narrow and wide-body aircraft. Performs various repairs on aircraft airframe and power plants and other required services to ensure airworthiness. Must be skilled in the use of specialized aircraft testing equipment and hold current U.S. FAA A&P License or an equivalent foreign license. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Ground Support Equipment Mechanic (5)
Requires: Diploma from technical/vocational course on automotive/diesel engines with minimum of 2 years experience in repair and overhaul of gas and diesel engines for automobiles and other specialized motorized equipment. Performs mechanical and electrical repairs, welding repairs, corrosion treatment and painting on all GSE equipment and vehicles. Must also be skilled in parts fabrication. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Load Planning Specialist (3)
Requires: Associate's Degree with 2 years of aircraft ramp operation experience with specific airline certification as a load planner. Ensures that aircraft load is distributed and secured in accordance with aircraft weight and balance requirements, ensuring that the aircraft's operational or structural limitations are not exceeded. Must be computer-literate and can perform manual weight and balance calculations. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Technical Operations Supervisor (1)
Requires: Diploma from technical / vocational course on automobile gas / diesel engines with minimum 4 years experience with a supervisory capacity in electrical, electronic, pneumatic, hydraulic system and gas / diesel engine maintenance. Plans work and supervises mechanics in performing mechanical and electrical repairs, welding repairs, corrosion treatment and painting on all GSE equipment and vehicles. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Terminal Operations Supervisor (1)
Requires: Associate's degree in related field. Five (5) years equivalent work experience. Specific airline certification as load planner. Sufficient mathematical skills to perform manual weight and balance calculations. Thorough knowledge in all areas of ramp, cargo and flight operations. Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Interested applicants may send their applications to Int_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than March 15, 2017. Applications for employment are available at the **Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan.** Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

L&T Group of Companies, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Gemkell Saipan Corp. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Sales Associate, Part Time (5)
Responsible for managing the customer's experience by identifying customer's needs and recommending or promoting the appropriate merchandise. Sales Associates also process all modes of payment using the POS System and help maintain and enhance the overall appearance of the boutique by maintaining the cleanliness of the store (showcases and displays).

Requires: High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales and must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred.

Interested applicants may send their applications or resumes via email to gemkell_recruitment@tanholdings.com . To be considered, resumes/application documents must be submitted not later than **March 15, 2017**. Applications for Employment are available at the Century Tours Office, Kanoa Resort. Background checks will be required prior to employment.

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

Invites qualified US workers to apply for the following positions:

Customer Service Supervisor (1)
Requires: Associate's Degree in related field or comparable work experience preferred. One to two years equivalent work experience. Provides assistance and customer service to passengers by performing various customer service duties in the airport such as check-in, reservations, baggage and processing. Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Customer Service Agent (Interpreter) (6)
Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with at least 2 years' experience working as Passenger Service agent or on any related field of work. Fluency in a specific foreign language (Chinese/Korean) is required. Foreign Language speaking interpreters must effectively convert the verbal communication of one of these languages (Chinese/Korean) into the verbal form of the other. Must be able to lift 70 pounds and carry it for at least 100 yards. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Lead Customer Service Agent (Cargo) (3)
Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 4 years experience as a cargo handler. Handles and accepts cargoes according to the IATA, FAA, TSA, local airport, airlines and company regulations. Heads shift or work project, as directed by the supervisor, preparing documents for out-going and transfer cargoes. Must be able to operate forklift and other cargo-handling equipment and be able to lift 70 pounds and carry it for at least 100 yards. Must be proficient in the use of CSP Cargo Trac System. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Lead Customer Service Agent (Ramp) (5)
Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 4 years experience in ramp cargo loading and unloading operations. Heads shift or work project, as directed by the supervisor, operating equipment for loading and off-loading baggage/cargo to and from the aircraft for both commercial and freight aircraft. Ability to teach operation of specialized equipment for aircraft servicing and ramp operations. Must be able to lift 70 pounds and carry it for at least 100 yards. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr_frs@tanholdings.com.
To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than March 15, 2017.
Applications for employment are available at the Security Office, ground floor, south wing.
Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Saipan Adventures, Inc. invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Accountant (1)
High School graduate or a GED Certificate. Some related work experience in tour operation, sales or service related work is preferred. Must be proficient with Microsoft Office applications such as Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel; and proficient with Accounting software such as the SAP-R3 FICO (Financial and Controlling) and POS-RMS (Point of Sale) systems to record, store, and analyze information. Flexible under pressure. High attention to detail. Able to work independently with detailed projects. Has an aptitude for learning. Must be able and willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Customer Service Agent, (2)
High school diploma or equivalent. Two (02) months work experience in Travel or Tour operation or sales or service based work environment. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English, Korean, Japanese, or Chinese languages. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes.

Customer Service Supervisor, Retail (1)
High School Diploma or GED. At least one (1) to two (2) years of related supervisory experience in a luxury retail environment. Must have the knowledge and computer skills to handle the POS register and other operations and communication systems.

Operations Manager (1)
College or Associate's degree in Management, Travel and Tour or any related field. At least three (3) years of progressive management experience in tour and travel operations is required. Fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese languages. Must be able and willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Sales Associate (2)
High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred.

Inventory Assistant (1)
High School Diploma or GED with at least six (6) months retail experience and at least three (3) months of prior receiving, stocking and inventory experience. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Knowledge on the following equipment: POS terminal, photocopier/facsimile machine, and other items as necessary to accomplish assigned tasks. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and move up to 50 pound items using a trolley. Must be able to bend, kneel, crouch, or crawl in awkward positions. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications to savi_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than **March 15, 2017**. Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Saipan Adventures Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Saipan Adventures, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

share the power of a wish℠ MAKE-A-WISH®

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590 South Marine Corps Drive. ITC Bldg, Suite 109, Tamuning, GU 9691303507
Tel: (670) 483-9474 • Email: info@guam.wish.org • www.guam.wish.org

Job Vacancy Announcement

Position:
(1) General Maintenance Worker

Send Resume at:
GMA Corp. dba. NMI Contractor
P.O. Box 503317 CK,
Saipan, MP 96950

Li's Limited Corporation
dba U Save Car Rental

is looking for
(2) Car Rental Agent
- Chinese speaker required
- Must be knowledgeable in car rental business

Interested applicants, please call 1-(670)-989-4076 or send your resume to usavecarrentals@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
1 MECHANICAL ENGINEER
*4-5 years experience in Real Estate
*Should be Engineer graduate

1 MAINTENANCE & REPAIRER WORKER
*1-2 years exp. in maintenance / as repairer worker
*At least high school graduate

Please send resume to:
Equitable Realty & Consulting Services
Fax no.: 234-5104

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
ACCOUNTANT
*6-8 years experience in the preparation & analysis of Financial Statements
*Should be BSBA-Accounting graduate
*6-8 years experience in Financing & Insurance

Please send resume to:
Friendly Finance Co., Inc
Fax no.: 234-5104

Salty Saipan Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) General Maintenance
Minimum Qualifications: High school graduate; one (1) year of paid experience as a General Building Structure Maintenance worker in position(s) requiring knowledge of rough and finish carpentry, plumbing, interior and exterior painting and electrician skills; one (1) year of experience as a commercial cleaner, preferably in hotel, lodge or single structure housekeeping setting(s). Experience with use of pesticides and fertilizers and how to avoid the hazardous affect of common chemicals used for building maintenance and repair.
Duties: Ensures that a newly constructed building structure and its surrounding area are maintained in a clean and orderly condition and good repair. Cleans rooms and yard areas; strips and applies wax to floors; shampoos carpets; washes and paints interior and exterior walls; diagnoses and cures building plumbing, electrical and carpentry repair needs. Assesses and completes laundry needs. Operates water blaster and bush whacker.

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Knowledgeable in Western, Japanese, Chinese, Korean and Filipino Cuisine. At least one (1) year work-related experience. Certified Graduate from a Culinary Institute. Drug Testing & Police Clearance Required.

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If interested, please send resume to herenuisong@gmail.com

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WUSHIN CORPORATION

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A minimum of 5 years experience as LPG tank truck driver. Must be a trained Hazmat Tank truck driver. Safety training Certificate of Hazardous materials/ transportation of dangerous good is required. Have a driving record with safety standards in regards to preventable motor vehicle accidents and violation of motor vehicle laws. Must be physically qualified to drive a MC331 Cargo Tank Truck. Must have a current and valid CNMI Driver's license and not be disqualified to drive a motor vehicle. Police/Court Clearance and commercial Driver's Health Certificate are required.

Interested applicant must submit an application or resume at our office located at Lower Base or may also send their application to wushin2@pticom.com.

Wushin Corp. is an equal opportunity employer and has a drug free work environment. Pre-employment drug testing may be required.

D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd. inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

SALES REPRESENTATIVE – HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY & LUBRICANTS

A minimum of 3 years work related experience required with a successful Sales record. Preferably with an Associate's degree in Sales & Marketing. Sales experience with hotel, F&B, and restaurants together with knowledge of their inventory supply operations an advantage. Knowledge of petroleum lubricants a plus. Proven good track record in product marketing and excellent customer service is required. Must be proficient in Microsoft Excel, Word and Outlook. Must provide own reliable transport and must be able to meet monthly sales targets. Must be able to lift 50lbs. Extensive contacts in various businesses and industries an advantage. Available to work evenings, holidays or weekends as needed.

Interested applicants must submit an application and/or resume at our Saipan office located in the C.T.S.I. building, Lower Base, by March 14, 2017. Applications may also be sent to: mpk@dandq-international.com. The successful applicant will be required to provide a police clearance.

D&Q is an equal opportunity employer and has a drug free work environment.
Pre-employment and random drug testing may be required.

MTL COMMERCIAL TRADING, INC.

Secretaries & Administrative Assistant
- Knowledge of Administrative & Clerical procedures & systems, Intuit Quickbooks Software.
- Knowledge of circuit boards, processors, chips, electronic equipment & computer hardware & software, including applications & programming.
- Knowledge of installation & configuration of computer hardware and its operating system.

Apply in person and bring resume.
No phone call please.
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) CAD Operator:
Required Bachelor's Degree and 5 years of experience. Proficiency in AutoCAD 2015, Google Sketchup 2016 and Microsoft Office.

(1) Computer User Support Specialist:
Bachelor's Degree with 5 years experience. Proficiency in network troubleshooting and configuration, Microsoft Operating System & Server, Linux, Java Programming, Autocad, and Computer Software and Hardware Troubleshooting.

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Saipan Adventures, Inc.

invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Tour Guide (11)
High School Diploma or GED with a minimum of six (6) months to one (1) year experience in travel or tour operation, sales or service related field. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes. Fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese languages.

Interested applicants may send their resumes to savi_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than 5:00PM on March 15, 2017. Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Century Tours Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Applicants must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Saipan Adventures, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Workforce Solutions Inc.

is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Customer Service Supervisor (3)
High School Diploma or GED. At least 1-2 years work experience in a tour/travel agency, sales or service related work preferably with at least 1-2 years of experience supervising a team of tour sales agents. Must be able to speak, read, write, and understand English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes.

Interested applicants may send their applications or resumes via email to workforcesolutions.recruitment@gmail.com. To be considered, resumes/application documents must be submitted not later than **5:00PM on March 15, 2017.**

Kanoa Resort Saipan

is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Food & Beverage Manager (1)
Qualifications: A degree in hotel and restaurant management is preferred plus minimum of 3 years experience as an Assistant F&B Manager or F&B Manager capacity, in a five-star hotel, club, or resort. Strong background and experience in Food & Beverage preferably in the hospitality industry. Possess the ability to work quickly, accurately and independently in a fast-paced environment. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early morning, nights, weekends and holidays.

Room Reservations Supervisor (1)
Qualifications: Preferably college degree and must have 2 years of experience in Sales and Marketing or Tourism. Must know how to handle the room situations in case of over sell or over bookings, need to be familiar to hotel and agent policy, cut off days, agent room blockage and cancellations policy. Know how to protect the hotel, agent contract and their privacy. Must have excellent communication skills, good quality of customer service, and multi tasking skills are a must. Team player is a must. Capable of decision making and can work under pressure. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays when needed.

Guest Relations Supervisor (1)
Qualifications: Minimum 2 to 4 years supervisory work experience in Front Office of a hotel. High school diploma or general education degree; or 3 to 6 months related experience and /or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Ensure maximum guest satisfaction, and adhering to the standard requiring by the hotel. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early morning, nights, weekends and holidays.

Guest Relations Agent (4)
Qualifications: Preferable some basic knowledge of travel/hotel industry. Minimum 3 to 6 months related work experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Ensure maximum guest satisfaction, and adhering to the standard requiring by the hotel. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early morning, nights, weekends and holidays.

International Cook (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma; graduate from independent and vocational cooking schools, professional culinary institutes or a college degree in appropriate field or equivalent. At least 2 to 4 years experience in a five-star Hotel, Club, or Resort. Knowledge of various international menu/dishes. Knowledge of techniques and equipment for planting, growing, and harvesting food products (both plant and animal) for consumption, including storage/handling techniques. Knowledge of raw materials, production processes, quality control, costs, and other techniques for maximizing the effective manufacture and distribution of goods. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays when needed.

Accountant (1)
Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree in Accounting with 2 years of progressive experience in accounting. Airline industry experience preferred. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software, Peachtree and Microsoft software. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays when needed.

Accounting Manager (1)
Qualifications: College degree with financial management major and 3 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 5 years' experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage people. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software, Peachtree and Microsoft software. CPA not required. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays when needed.

Lead Customer Service Agent (Airport) (5)
Qualifications: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 4 years experience in passenger or customer service. Heads shift or work project, as directed by the supervisor, assisting passengers by answering inquiries regarding flight information/booking/reservations, checking-in out-bound passengers and luggage and assisting them in boarding flights, assisting in-bound passengers through immigration and customs. Must be computer-literate with excellent oral and written communication skills. Knowledgeable in FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA, local airport and airline regulations. Must be able to lift 70 pounds and carry it for at least 100 yards. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays when needed.

Customer Service Agent (Aircraft) (4)
Qualifications: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with 2 years' experience in aircraft exterior and interior cleaning. Performs interior cleaning of various aircraft to include cabins, lavatories and galleys. Must be knowledgeable in the use of different kinds of cleaning equipment, tools and materials. Candidates must be able to obtain an Airport Badge. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays when needed.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applicants must be submitted not later than March 16, 2017. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer
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Bogut breaks leg in debut, Cavs lose 106-98 to Heat

CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James didn't need to speak with Andrew Bogut or see the X-rays on the center's leg.

"I heard it break," he said. "I heard it crack."

In an ugly instant, Cleveland lost much more than a game Monday night.

Bogut broke his left leg less than one minute into his debut and the Cavaliers never recovered while being outgunned 106-98 by the surging and not-to-be-overlooked Miami Heat, who beat the NBA champions twice in three nights.

Dion Waiters scored 29 points, Goran Dragic added 21 and the Heat held off a late rally by the Cavs, who trimmed a 20-point deficit to 103-98 in the final minute. It could have gotten tighter but James missed a long 3-pointer before Waiters banked one in with 12.2 seconds left.

However, Miami's latest impressive win was overshadowed by the injury to Bogut, who only signed with Cleveland last week and had been welcomed to the team earlier in the day by being given jersey No. 6.5—a joke that made the big Australian smile.

Now, though, the Cavs don't know when or if Bogut will be able to help defend their title.

"It's very deflating," James said. "It's a tough moment. We all were excited about the acquisition, you know, bring him in here. It's a tough one, not only obviously for him, first of all, but then for our ballclub."

Kyrie Irving scored 32 and James had 30 points and 17 rebounds for Cleveland, which was beaten by 22 on Saturday in Miami while James and Irving got some rest.

The Heat have won 19 of 23, including victories over Golden State, Houston and two over the Cavs, who may have to find another rim protector.

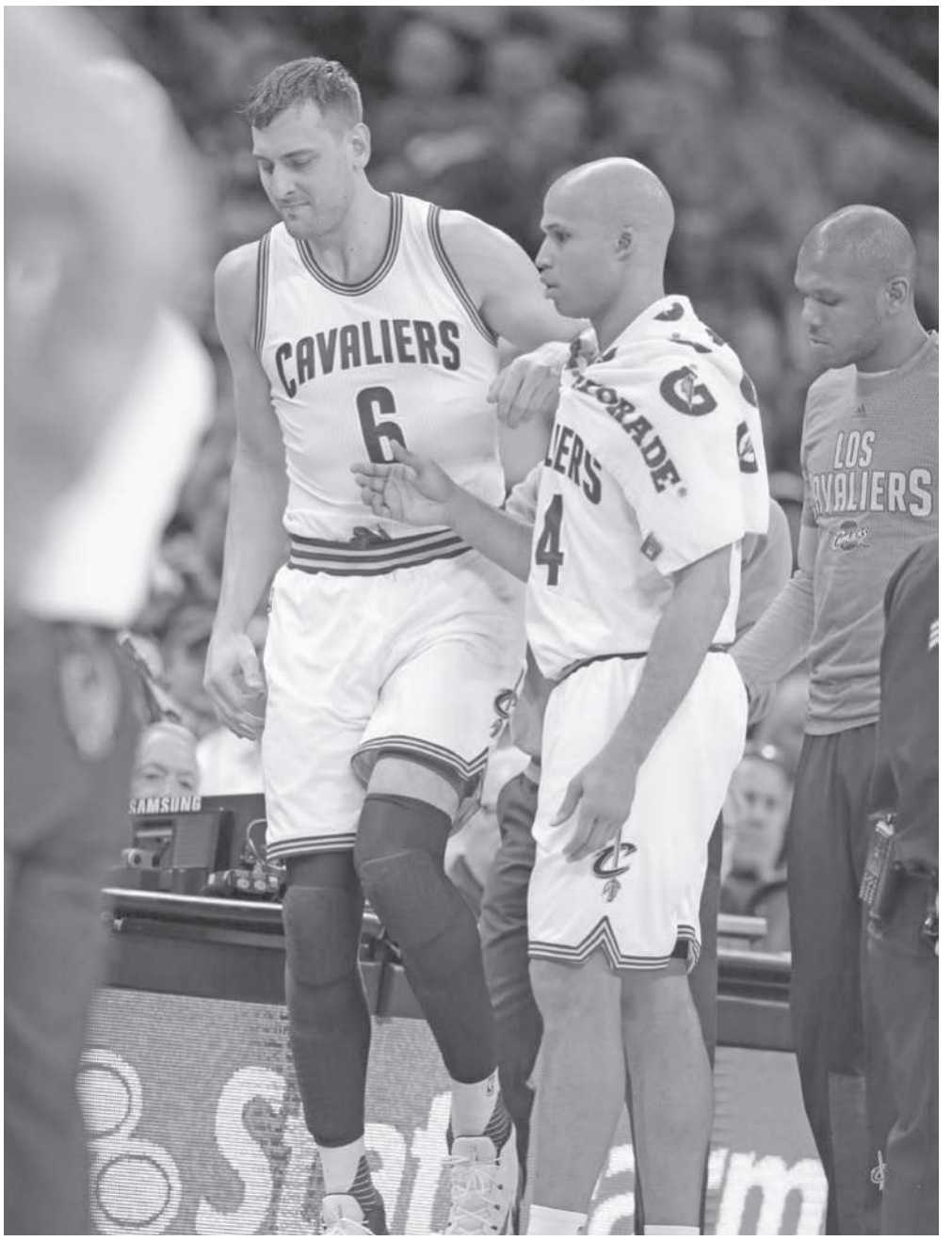
The 32-year-old Bogut was on the court for just 58 seconds before going down with the injury, a devastating blow to the former No. 1 overall pick who spent the past four seasons with Golden State was hoping to meet with the Warriors again.

Bogut was on the perimeter guarding Miami's Okaro White, whose knee connected with the center's lower leg. Bogut crumpled to the floor in obvious pain and as he sat up near the scorer's table, TV cameras caught him telling his teammates his leg was broken.

James knew it already.

"As soon as the collision happened I heard it break," James said. "I went over to him and I knew it."

Bogut was unable to put any weight on his leg as he was helped to the locker room by new teammates Tristan Thompson and James Jones. The Cavs said initial X-rays revealed a fractured tibia and Bogut was taken to the Cleveland Clinic for further tests.



AP
Cleveland Cavaliers' Andrew Bogut (6) is helped up by Cleveland Cavaliers' Richard Jefferson (24) in the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Miami Heat, Monday, March 6, 2017, in Cleveland.

It was a cruel setback for Bogut, who just a little earlier was cracking jokes about Vladimir Putin and talking about house shopping in his new NBA home.

Bogut's injury sent a chill through the Cleveland crowd and seemed to affect the Cavs, who were without an ill coach Tyronn Lue and were out of rhythm even before the big man dropped to the floor clutching his leg in obvious pain.

"It took the air out of the whole building," James said. "You heard it from the fans when he went down and we was just hoping for the best."

Miami's win on Saturday ended with injured Cavs guard J.R. Smith being restrained and escorted from the floor by security after jawing with Waiters and Heat rookie Rodney McGruder.

There was no carry-over—other than the Heat having their way with the Cavs for most of the night.

"We believe in ourselves first and foremost," Waiters said. "If other people don't, I think we did a good job of opening their eyes by the way we've been playing. We've just got to continue to fly under the radar, just keep piling wins up and make that push."

Spurs 112, Rockets 110

In San Antonio, Kawhi Leonard scored 39 points, including 17 in the fourth quarter, and made big plays on both ends in the final 30 seconds as San Antonio rallied to beat Houston.

Leonard outscored James Harden 17-4 in the final quarter of a matchup between two leading MVP candidates as the Spurs won their eighth straight.

Harden finished with 39 points and 12 assists in the final matchup of the season between the intrastate rivals.

Warriors 119, Hawks 111

In Atlanta, Andre Iguodala scored a season-high 24 points on a subpar shooting night for the Splash Brothers, carrying Golden State over the Atlanta Hawks, whose chances were ruined by a dispute on the court that led to the benching of Dennis Schroder.

Bouncing back from their first regular-season losing streak in nearly two years, the Warriors won for the second day in a row without Kevin Durant, who is out indefinitely with a left knee injury.

Stephen Curry had 24 points on 8-of-20 shooting, while Klay Thompson was held to 13 after a scoreless first half. But Iguodala and the Warriors bench picked up the slack, outscoring the Atlanta reserves 55-37.

Clippers 116, Celtics 102

In Los Angeles, Blake Griffin scored 26 points, Chris Paul added 23 and Los Angeles rallied to beat Boston.

Jamal Crawford helped lift the Clippers in the second half by scoring 17 of his 19 points after halftime as Los Angeles shot 58 percent over the final two quarters.

DeAndre Jordan added 15 points and 12 rebounds for the Clippers, who won their second in a row and remained 1 1/2 games behind Utah in the race for fourth place in the Western Conference.

Pistons 109, Bulls 95

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Reggie Jackson scored 24 of his 26 points in the second half, and Detroit pulled away down the stretch for a victory over Chicago.

The Pistons climbed into a tie for the No. 7 spot in the Eastern Conference with the Bulls, who were playing without injured Dwyane Wade and Rajon Rondo.

Jackson's performance has been spotty this season, and at times backup Ish Smith has seemed like a better option late in games. But Jackson was instrumental in helping the Pistons take control in a game Monday that was tied at 79 after three quarters.

Jimmy Butler scored 27 points for Chicago.

Jazz 88, Pelicans 83

In Salt Lake City, Gordon Hayward scored 23 points and Utah led from start to finish against New Orleans.

The Jazz pushed their win streak to three games despite a choppy performance on both ends.

The Jazz led 43-34 at halftime after leading by 18 following a dominant first quarter. Utah had a 20-6 run in which eight players scored.

Rudy Gobert posted his 44th double-double of the season with 15 points and 15 rebounds.

Hornets 100, Pacers 88

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Kemba Walker scored 28 points, Nicolas Batum added 21 and Charlotte beat Indiana.

Returning home after their victory Saturday in Denver, the Hornets notched consecutive wins for the first time since Jan. 20-21.

Paul George had 36 points on 15-of-25 shooting for the Pacers (32-31), who were playing the final game of a five-game road trip.

Charlotte (28-35) used a fast start to provide enough cushion to cruise to the victory, despite Indiana's second-half comeback attempt that sliced the Hornets' lead to 82-75 with 8:12 remaining.

Jeremy Lamb sank a 3-pointer and a layup for the Hornets, however, to keep the Pacers at bay.

Nuggets 108, Kings 96

In Denver, Wilson Chandler scored a career-high 36 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, helping Denver weather the absence of Nikola Jokic to beat Sacramento.

The Nuggets snapped a five-game skid against Sacramento and remained entrenched in the Western Conference's final playoff spot.

Jokic was a late scratch because of an illness. With him went 15.9 points, 9.3 rebounds and 4.6 assists. Mason Plumlee stepped in and posted Jokic-like numbers—10 points, 12 rebounds and five assists.

Nets 122, Grizzlies 109

In Memphis, Tennessee, Jeremy Lin scored 18 points, including nine straight in a fourth-quarter Brooklyn rally, Sean Kilpatrick added 23 and the Nets won for only the second time in 20 games with a victory over Memphis.

Isaiah Whitehead scored 15 points, while Randy Foye and Caris LeVert added 14 apiece as Brooklyn shot 53 percent in snapping a two-game losing streak.

Mike Conley led Memphis with 32 points and Marc Gasol added 18 as Memphis lost its third straight and fifth in the last seven.

Bucks 112, 76ers 98

In Philadelphia, Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 24 points, Tony Snell had 18 of his season-high 21 in the first half and Milwaukee trailed in a victory over Philadelphia.

Malcolm Brogdon and Khris Middleton added 13 apiece for the Bucks, who won their third straight game to stay close in the Eastern Conference playoff race. Milwaukee began the day 1 ½ games behind Detroit for the final playoff spot in the East. The Pistons hosted Chicago on Monday night.

Justin Anderson tied his career high with 19 points for Philadelphia, which has lost five of six. The 76ers were without big man Jahlil Okafor (knee) for the second straight game. They are so short of bodies that they received a hardship exception to sign Shawn Long to a 10-day contract on Monday. Long, in his NBA debut, had 13 points and seven rebounds.

Knicks 113, Magic 105

In Orlando, Florida, Courtney Lee scored 20 points, Lance Thomas added 17 and New York used a big fourth quarter to rally past Orlando.

Willy Hernangomez had 14 points and eight rebounds, while Kristaps Porzingis scored 14 points for the Knicks, who stopped a two-game losing streak. Kyle O'Quinn sparked the comeback with 11 points and eight rebounds, all in the fourth quarter.

Elfrid Payton had his first triple-double of the season with 16 points, 10 assists and 11 rebounds. Evan Fournier led Orlando with 25 points and Aaron Gordon had 17 in the Magic's third loss in four games.

New York outscored Orlando 28-13 in the fourth period, holding the Magic to just 17.6 percent shooting (3 of 17), while shooting 54.5 percent (12 of 22).

A WBC tradition—MLB teams worry about players getting hurt

MIAMI (AP)—Honking horns, pulsing percussion and chanting crowds will transform Marlins Park into a Caribbean-style carnival this week for the World Baseball Classic.

To major league teams, it sounds dangerous.

WBC games are sure to inspire maximum effort by players eager to win for their country, which is exactly what worries their big league bosses. While spectators in the stands literally beat the drum on behalf of the international tournament, Major League Baseball managers and executives are less than thrilled about their players' participation.

"You're risking injury," Nationals manager Dusty Baker said.

"I think most coaches and managers rather not have guys go," Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said, "but it has been good for baseball."

The WBC, which began Monday in South Korea, draws big, noisy crowds, and players rave about the atmosphere. But less than a month into spring training, the tournament has them going all-out with the MLB season still weeks away.

Thus the fear of injury, a concern that has become as much a part of the quadrennial tournament as flag-waving.

"Going full speed, full boar, full game competition, third-deck fans screaming - baseball generally isn't played that way this time of year for us," Astros manager A.J. Hinch said.

Dodgers shortstop Hanley Ramirez needed thumb surgery after getting hurt in the 2013 final, and it's difficult to gauge the toll participation takes later in the season. Edinson Volquez, Jake Peavy, Daisuke Matsuzaka, and Scot Shields were among almost two dozen WBC pitchers hampered by injuries in the months after the 2009 tournament.

Volquez, now with the Marlins, is on the Dominican roster again this year. He acknowledged the WBC changes his preparation for the season.

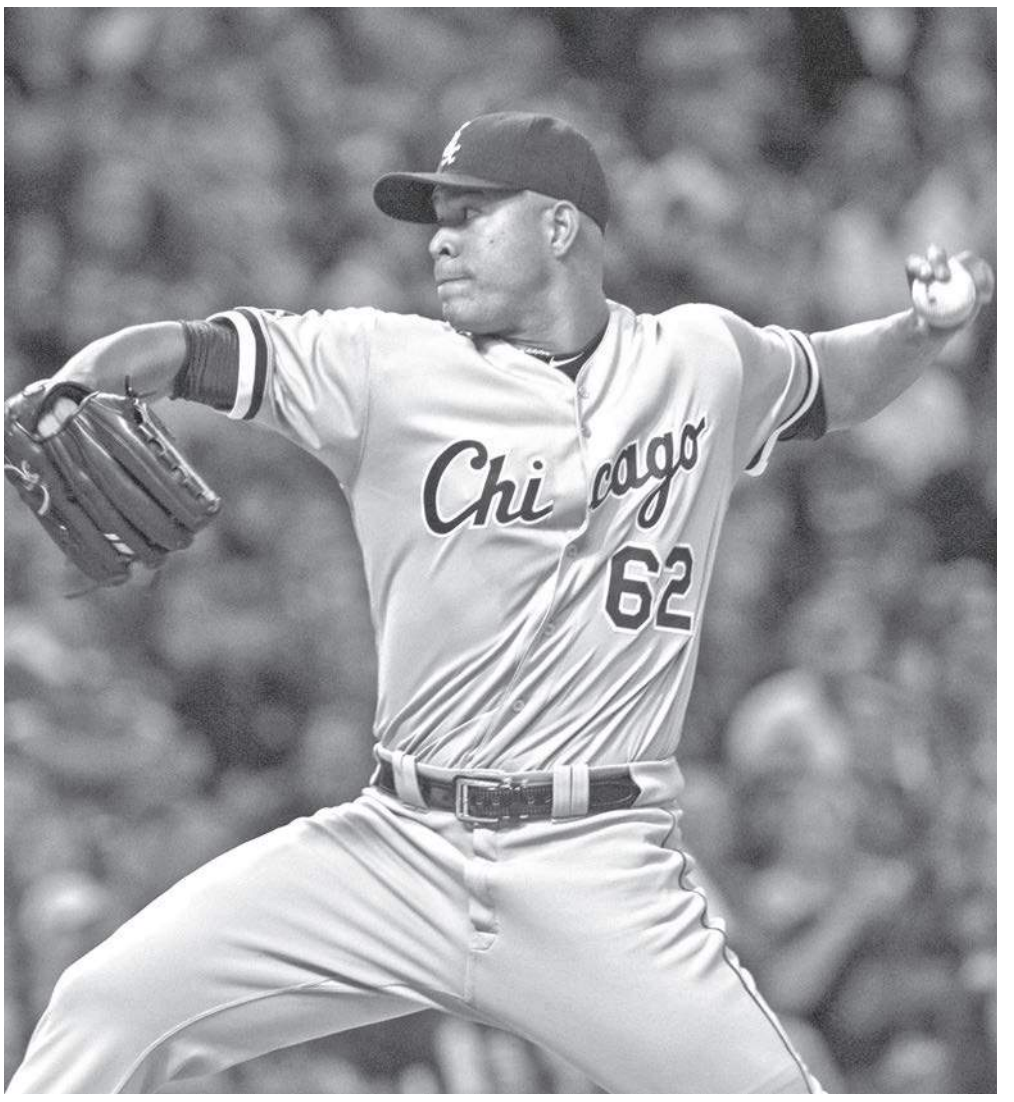
"It's not like if you're pitching in spring training," he said. "You are competing with another country. You put a lot of effort into that experience."

Some players, including Blue Jays right-hander Marcus Stroman and Yankees reliever Dellin Betances, said they began working out earlier than usual this winter because they knew their spring training preparation would be brief.

"You don't have that many games until the WBC," Betances said, "but I feel like the adrenaline will kick in there and I'll be ready."

Of particular concern are players coming off a short offseason, such as reliever Andrew Miller of the American League champion Cleveland Indians. But players seem to value the opportunity more than they fear any injury risk.

The U.S. roster included 18 All-Stars, two MVPs and nine Gold Glove winners, and other teams also attracted plenty of major leaguers.



AP

In this Sept. 24, 2016 file photo, Chicago White Sox starting pitcher Jose Quintana delivers against the Cleveland Indians during the first inning of a baseball game in Cleveland. Quintana will be present in the World Baseball Classic to be played on March 2017.

"It's an honor for me to be chosen. It's a rare opportunity for a ballplayer to represent his country," said Indians catcher Roberto Perez, who will play for Puerto Rico. "Injuries are always going to be there. It's something you can't control. It's a risk, but to have the chance to represent your country is unique."

WBC rules limiting pitch counts and appearances are designed to protect pitchers. Managers around the majors say they're confident the U.S. staff will be carefully monitored by manager Jim Leyland and general manager Joe Torre.

Leyland said he feels that responsibility. But when the goal is to win, there's only so much he can do to keep his pitchers healthy.

"The biggest thing, for me, is that you're asking them to amp it up a little earlier than they normally would," Leyland said. "And that can be dangerous."

Teams worry that even if a player returns to their spring training camp healthy, the effects of taking part in the WBC might show up later.

Measuring that impact can be difficult, even in a sport full of statistics.

"What we don't know is the cumulative effect of getting ramped up, from a pitching perspective or from a position player perspective, and how that carries over into maybe the third or fourth or fifth month of the season," Hinch said. "I'm not sure we're ever going to know."

Baker said U.S. players might be more susceptible than players from some other countries.

"The Cubans and the teams from Asia are in better shape for this than we are," Baker said, "because they train, train, train big time all year long for this."

Marlins manager Don Mattingly tried to look on the bright side, noting the WBC can help players hone their skills because of the intense competition.

And Hinch noted the value of the experience for such youngsters as his infielder, second-year big leaguer Alex Bregman.

"I think we have to separate the managerial anxiety of what could happen from the actual experience," Hinch said. "Bregman is going to be a kid in a candy store with all these superstars around the game for Team USA. That experience is hard to quantify."

Red Sox newcomer Chris Sale throws 2 innings in spring debut

Boston Red Sox newcomer Chris Sale gave himself mixed reviews after his first spring training performance, an outing that ended a little earlier than originally planned.

Acquired from the Chicago White Sox in December, the dominant lefty gave up two runs, one of them earned, in two innings Monday against Houston.

"Happy? I don't know," he said. "I got some good work in. I'm not a fan of sitting here and saying spring training doesn't matter. You still want to get results."

Boston manager John Farrell had Sale set to go three innings. But after 37 pitches in two innings, Farrell decided the debut was over.

"I understand why, I mean I racked up a pretty good amount of pitches, which is another thing I'd like to get down," Sale said.

The scoreboard radar gun showed Sale's fastball hitting 97 mph a couple times during the first inning. He struck out two.

AP

Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Chris Sale (41) works in the second inning of a spring training baseball game against the Houston Astros Monday, March 6, 2017, in West Palm Beach, Fla.

"I was a little surprised to see the velocity he had in his first outing," Farrell said. "In a way you kind of think it's a high number for this early in camp, but you can't tell a strong competitor to back off."

The Red Sox traded three minor leaguers and highly touted Yoan Moncada to the White Sox for Sale, a five-time All-Star and the 2015 AL strikeout king.

Sale's addition took on even more importance earlier this spring when lefty ace David Price began experiencing elbow soreness. Price's status for the start of the season remains uncertain.

"I think every player we have has got a certain amount of scrutiny just because it's Boston," Farrell said. "Independent of developments on our roster, health wise or other, Chris Sale is going to draw a lot of attention. Based on what we know of him, I think he'll handle this environment well."

BELTRE SET

Texas third baseman Adrian Beltre said he's OK to join the Dominican Republic for World Baseball Classic.

Beltre played his third game in four days Monday after missing the first week of exhibition games because of a strained left calf, an injury sustained working out at home before reporting to camp.

"Obviously if I'm good enough to play out here, I'm good enough to play," he said. "I would like to represent my country. This is going to be my last WBC that I'm part of."

The 37-year-old Gold Glover planned to stay in Arizona with the Rangers as long as he could to get treatment and more at-bats before joining the defending champion Dominicans in Miami for their opener Thursday.

KAZMIR SETBACK

Dodgers lefty Scott Kazmir exited after his first pitch of the second inning against Colorado because of tightness on his left side.

The 33-year-old Kazmir said he felt out of sorts during his pregame warmup and the first inning. He was 10-6 with a 4.56 ERA in 26 last starts last season, his first with the Dodgers, struggling with mechanics and flexibility because of injuries.

"The frustration is through the roof right now," he said after his second spring training start. "I've been dealing with this for a while now. With all the treatment and exercises I do and to be in this spot right now is definitely a head scratcher." ***(AP)***

2 days left for Saipan Marathon registration

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Marathon 2017, which is set for March 25, is closing its doors for registration after March 10, which is exactly two days from today.

Saipan Marathon 2017, also known as the Festival of Runs, hosts a variety of three multiple-length marathons all in one day, namely the Saipan Ultra Marathon at 50km or 31.07 miles, the Saipan Marathon at 42.195km or 26.21 miles, the Saipan Half Marathon at 21.0975km or 13.11 miles, and the Saipan 10km at 10km or 6.21 miles.

The price for the Saipan Ultra Marathon and Saipan Marathon is $65 while $55 is for the registration fee for the Saipan Half Marathon and Saipan 10km for both U.S. and CNMI citizens.

Junior high and high school students get a discount, with a registration fee of $40. Students must provide an ID in order to avail of the discount.

Inclusive in the registration fee is an awards banquet, a finishers T-shirt, and a certificate of completion.

The Association of International Marathons and Distance Races, or AIMS, along with recognition from the International Association of Athletics Federations, or IAAF, allow finishers of the Saipan Marathon a qualifying slot at the prestigious Boston Marathon.

The event, which is hosted by the Marianas Visitors Authority, is a way to introduce Saipan as a venue available for sports tourism and the like. With numbers of marathon participants slowly dwindling down for the marathon, MVA managing director Chris Concepcion believes the Festival of Runs is an effective way to urge travel to the CNMI.

"We are receiving strong interest from the local community and Japan in the marathon, and we are also looking at expanding our participation from other countries even more [this year]," said Concepcion in an earlier press release.

Registrants are required to pick up the race packets on March 24 at the Paseo de Marianas.

The start for the marathon is at American Memorial Park at 4am for the Saipan Ultra Marathon and the Saipan Marathon, while the Saipan Half Marathon and the Saipan 10km would start at 5am and 5:45am respectively.

Registration forms are available at the MVA office in San Jose and at the MVA official website at www.mymarianas.com. For more information, contact MVA's Ed Diaz at 664-3210.

Free agency means finding right fit on field, in locker room

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)— NFL free agency isn't as simple as making a shopping list among available players and positions, then writing checks.

No matter how much a team needs a top cornerback to fix a porous secondary or a left tackle for a struggling offensive line, adding a veteran means finding someone who plugs as seamlessly into a locker room as into a coach's schemes on the field.

That requires as much homework and study as does drafting a player out of college. Fitting a coach's strategies, displaying a strong work ethic and even the player's personality all are crucial pieces of the decision. Interviews at the NFL scouting combine years before supply some answers. Game tape helps check production.

A wide receiver might've caught more passes if only his quarterback had more time to throw the ball, or that quarterback's line didn't protect well. Or that QB wasn't very good.

Before agreeing to a big deal, a chat with his own players is a must for a general manager, assuring himself that a free agent will meld with teammates.

"All these guys, it's a brotherhood," Titans general manager Jon Robinson said. "NFL players talk, and they communicate with each other. We summon their opinions on the guys. You try to get the right chemistry and the right fit."

OVER

From Page 28

fifth hour. The bike course will bring participants from the transition area at Pau Pau Beach to the scenic sites down Marpi, including the Banzai Cliff, Bird Island Lookout, and Grotto. From Marpi, bikers will head down south up to the Pacific Islands Club and will negotiate the southern route twice before heading back to the start/finish line for the transition to the run leg. The run leg will be two laps, from Pau Pau to the Elbow Road in Marpi and back.

This weekend's event is an age group competition with the top finisher in the men's and women's in 15 categories earning slots to the 2017 IRONMAN 70.3 World Championship in Chattanooga, Tennessee on Sept. 9, 2017. The qualifiers from over 100 Ironman 70.3 races and 185,000 registered participants, will be among the more than 4,000 that will see action in the September event.

The race will start at 7pm, while check-in time will begin at 5am.

TANHOLDINGS

From Page 28

tion from escalating.

When tension subsided, Pagarao and Quan were thrown out of the game, while Fitial stayed, as the referees said the latter was just trying to bear hug the former and not choke him, as TanHoldings players and supporters contended.

Chris Rogolifoi replaced Quan and took the bonus shot, but missed, however TanHoldings' Bart Demapan dropped the ball after getting the rebound, while Alex Lauron picked it up for a putback to tie the match, 67-all.

The 4-point swing turned into a short 8-3 spurt for Joeten with Kelvin Fitial finishing the rally with a fastbreak layup after picking Esdrelon's pocket to put his team on top, 71-70. Joeten went on to increase the lead to 3, 73-70, after Demapan missed a pair of charities while Keoni Chariton converted a baseline drive, making up for an earlier traveling violation.

A split free throw from Schmidt in the ensuing play moved TanHoldings within two and the eventual undefeated team went on to regain the upper hand after Joeten became careless with its passes at the under one-minute mark of regulation.

Lauron's inbound pass to Fitial was intercepted by Esdrelon, who went straight to the basket to tie the match. Another Lauron pass was caught by the long arms of Schmidt, who stretched for the layup and put TanHoldings on top, 75-73. Schmidt earlier got away with a fastbreak shot off Joeten's first error in the last two minutes of the fourth quarter, but the basket was nullified as Jarett Matsutaro was called for an illegal screen.

Schmidt made up for the voided basket with 29.2 seconds left and TanHoldings kept the shaky lead when Fitial went 0-for-2 from the foul line on the other end with his first shot too strong and the second hitting nothing but air.

TanHoldings then made it a 3-point game when Schmidt was fouled in the ensuing play and nailed his first free throw attempt, 14.6 seconds left in the fourth canto. With no timeouts left, Joeten went for the quick inbound and Chariton swung the ball to Fitial on the left key for the game-tying triple, 5.2 ticks remaining in regulation.

TanHoldings sued for time, hoping to have the last say, but failed to put up a shot on time with Schmidt still far away from the basket and hounded by Fitial and Chariton after getting the inbound pass from Esdrelon. Schmidt was forced to kick the ball out to Matsutaro at the right key and the former released the missed shot after the fourth quarter buzzer had already sounded, sending the game into overtime.

Joeten then scored the first basket in the extension off Chariton's layup before Schmidt took over and finished off their foe to give TanHoldings the sweep.

Meanwhile, Ariel Jinang canned a game-tying triple, while Gerald Rivera scored D&Q/CTSI's last 4 points to lift their team to a 69-64 victory against Star Water.

It was a come-from-behind win for D&Q/CTSI, which faced a double-digit deficit at the end of the first period, 11-21. D&Q/CTSI worked its way back into the game in the second and third quarters and its persistence paid dividends in the fourth canto, thanks to its balance scoring in the payoff period and Jinang and Rivera's clutch baskets.

D&Q/CTSI finished Pool B with a 3-4 record for fifth place in the team standings, while Star Water fell to a 2-4 slate and has one more game left.

First Game

D&Q/CTSI 69 – Rivera 16, Jinang 13, Fujihira 11, Santos 9, Tenepere 7, Asaivao 5, Rabago 2, De La Torre 2, Benavente 2.

Star Water 65 – Santos 14, Dizon 12, Brel 11, Gallardo 11, Itaas 9, Ombal 8.

Scoring by quarters: 11-21, 32-36, 49-52, 69-65.

Second Game

TanHoldings 89 – Schmidt 49, Esdrelon 13, Demapan 12, Pagarao 9, Nonato 4, Matsutaro 2.

Joeten 84 – Lauron 21, Fitial 16, Chariton 14, Devero 11, Quan 10, Rogolifoi 8, Sambile 4.

Scoring by quarters: 26-14, 41-36, 64-59, 76-76, 89-

AGAPE

From Page 28

in the second to lead Agape's attack and pad their lead to 18 at the break, 27-9.

The Xu brothers then combined for 10 points in the third frame, while Yang made up for his lone field goal in the second after registering 8 points, allowing the Torchbearers to pull away, 47-14. For the third straight quarter, GCA was limited to two field goals and was on the brink of elimination with one period left in the playoff game.

With its big lead going into the fourth quarter, Agape had the luxury of resting its top scorers and giving playing time to its second and third stringers. The Torchbearers also let their guards down a bit in the final frame, allowing the Eagles more open shots. GCA hit more than two field goals for the first time and cut the deficit to a decent number at the end of the match.

With Agape's lopsided win, it arranged a semis duel against the winner of the Saipan International School-Saipan Community School playoff game, which was scheduled yesterday, but was cancelled due to the unplayable SCS court. The postponed match may be played today, while the semis game is tentatively set for tomorrow with Agape again as the host team.

"We will work more on our shooting and defense in the semis and hopefully we will be able to make it to the finals again," Agape coach Noel Puno said.

In the other semis pairing, MBA will challenge the unbeaten and defending champion Mt. Carmel School. The Knights, who eked out a 40-38 title win over Agape last year, posted an impressive 12-0 record in the regular season to take the outright semis seat, while MBA finished fourth in the rankings to set a quarterfinal showdown against the No. 5 SDA. Other details of the MBA-SDA tiff were unavailable at press time.

Agape 55 – Chenxuan 17, S. Xu 16, T. Xu 14, Heng 4, Wenhao 2, Dongchu 2.

GCA 26 – Balakrishna 14, Daproza 8, Woo 2, Si 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-5, 27-9, 47-14, 55-26.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	40	24	.625	—
Toronto	37	26	.587	2½
New York	26	38	.406	14
Philadelphia	23	40	.365	16½
Brooklyn	11	51	.177	28

Southeast Division

Washington	37	24	.607	—
Atlanta	34	29	.540	4
Miami	30	34	.469	8½
Charlotte	28	35	.444	10
Orlando	23	41	.359	15½

Central Division

Cleveland	42	20	.677	—
Indiana	32	31	.508	10½
Chicago	31	32	.492	11½
Detroit	31	32	.492	11½
Milwaukee	29	33	.468	13

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

x-San Antonio	49	13	.790	—
Houston	44	20	.688	6
Memphis	36	28	.563	14
Dallas	26	36	.419	23
New Orleans	25	39	.391	25

Northwest Division

Utah	40	24	.625	—
Oklahoma City	35	28	.556	4½
Denver	29	34	.460	10½
Portland	26	35	.426	12½
Minnesota	25	37	.403	14

Pacific Division

x-Golden State	52	11	.825	—
L.A. Clippers	38	25	.603	14
Sacramento	25	38	.397	27
Phoenix	21	42	.333	31
L.A. Lakers	19	44	.302	33

x-clinched playoff spot

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Westbrook, OKC	63	640	570	1994	31.7
Thomas, BOS	60	548	481	1771	29.5
Harden, HOU	64	526	594	1855	29.0
Davis, NOR	60	613	431	1688	28.1
Cousins, SAC	55	505	423	1528	27.8
DeRozan, TOR	56	550	421	1545	27.6
Leonard, SAN	57	500	386	1500	26.3
Lillard, POR	56	480	353	1458	26.0
James, CLE	57	553	274	1483	26.0
Durant, GOL	59	528	326	1494	25.3
Irving, CLE	55	511	227	1383	25.1
Curry, GOL	62	520	258	1544	24.9
Towns, MIN	62	577	265	1488	24.0
Butler, CHI	57	416	462	1360	23.9
McCollum, POR	61	533	208	1424	23.3
Wiggins, MIN	62	534	299	1443	23.3
Anthony, NYK	62	522	263	1439	23.2
Antetokounmpo, MIL	61	510	354	1415	23.2
Walker, CHA	62	501	247	1426	23.0
Beal, WAS	57	464	211	1303	22.9

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Jordan, LAC	307	439	.699
Gobert, UTA	293	456	.643
Capela, HOU	265	413	.642
Howard, ATL	297	465	.639
Gortat, WAS	311	533	.583
Jokic, DEN	354	607	.583
Adams, OKC	302	527	.573
Whiteside, MIA	410	740	.554
Kanter, OKC	297	540	.550
Valanciunas, TOR	297	544	.546

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Whiteside, MIA	59	211	620	831	14.1
Drummond, DET	62	259	596	855	13.8
Jordan, LAC	63	226	627	853	13.5
Howard, ATL	58	243	507	750	12.9
Gobert, UTA	64	246	573	819	12.8
Towns, MIN	62	227	533	760	12.3
Davis, NOR	60	136	569	705	11.8
Chandler, PHX	47	153	385	538	11.4
Gortat, WAS	61	192	491	683	11.2
Love, CLE	46	115	395	510	11.1

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Harden, HOU	64	721	11.3
Wall, WAS	59	637	10.8
Westbrook, OKC	63	633	10.0
James, CLE	57	503	8.8
Rubio, MIN	56	485	8.7
Teague, IND	63	507	8.0
Holiday, NOR	49	356	7.3
Green, GOL	60	434	7.2
Lowry, TOR	56	386	6.9
Rondo, CHI	53	343	6.5

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2016 NMIFA Youth Fall League Awarding

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

TanHoldings Boys U14 players and coaches pose with their medals and perpetual trophy during the awards ceremony for the 2016 NMIFA Youth Fall League last Saturday at the Surf Club in Chalan Kanoa. Also in the photo are league organizers and officials.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association vice president Vickie Izuka, second left, delivers a message to the players and officials present at the awards ceremony, while officials of other clubs joined her on the make-shift stage.

Triple J Fair Play awardees Sebastien Manabat, third left, Taro Goto, fourh left, Jerlyn Castillo, fifth left, and Joshua De Leon, seventh left, gather for a photo with league officials and Triple J Motors general manager Randy Steele after the trophy presentation.

The Golden Glove awardees in the boys U17 and U14, co-ed U12, and girls U15 age groups proudly show their trophies.

Paire's Kaden Church, second left, and Matansa's Guinevere Borja, third left, show their Golden Boot awards after receiving the trophies from league and NMIFA officials and Randy Steele, right, general manager of event sponsor Triple J Motors.

Shirley's FC players and coaches are joined by league officials during the trophy presentations for the girls U15 champion.

Kanoa FC's co-ed U12 team players and coaches are all smiles after receiving the perpetual trophy and first place medals.

MP United U18 players and their coaches pose with their medals and perpetual trophy.

Bogut breaks leg in debut, Cavs lose 106-98 to Heat

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

A WBC tradition—MLB teams worry about players getting hurt

PAGE 25

TanHoldings outlasts Joeten in OT

Over 200 sign up for Ironman Saipan

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A biker negotiates an uphill road in San Roque during a race last year. This weekend, the northern side of the island will be busy with the staging of the inaugural Ironman 70.3 Saipan.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

More than 200 will be racing in the inaugural Ironman 70.3 Saipan this Saturday.

As of March 1, 179 have signed up for the individual race and majority of them are from Japan. Other triathletes coming to Saipan to compete in the qualifying event for the 2017 IRONMAN 70.3 World Championship are from Guam, Thailand, Sweden, Spain, Germany, Great Britain, Hong Kong, Singapore, China, the U.S., Canada, and France.

There are also a few local triathletes joining the individual race this weekend, several Saipan teams (27 individuals) are entered in the relay contest. C'K's Claire Devey, Kate Freeman, and Claire Johnson are among them and will be racing against Winners' Colin Thompson, Tony Stearns, and Steve Pixley, Kanoa/Fiesta's Pathola Joab, Willy Barbo, and Ronald Villafria and teams from Japan, Korea, and Thailand.

Ironman 70.3 Saipan will start with a two-lap 1.9-kilometer swim at Pau Pau Beach, while the bike and run courses will cover distances of 90K and 21.1K.

Swimmers will face a triangular course with the first and third sides covering 320m each and the second measuring 310m. Cut-off time for the swim leg is one hour and 10 minutes.

For the bike leg, riders should finish the course by the

See OVER on Page 26

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

TanHoldings survived a scare from Joeten, pulling off an 89-84 overtime win in the second game in the JEM Company Ltd./Mobil Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Douglas Schmidt scored all but one of TanHoldings' 13 points in the extension period to lift his team to its seventh win in as many games. Joeten, which forced overtime after Kelvin Fitial buried a triple in the closing seconds of regulation, had its five-game winning streak snapped and finished Pool A with a 5-2 record for second place behind TanHoldings.

Schmidt drilled 10 of his 12 markers in the extra quarter in consecutive fashion, capping his string points with a banked triple to give TanHoldings enough cushion, 86-78, with under two minutes left in overtime. The trey was Schmidt's second in a row, while he earlier made two free throws to open TanHoldings' scoring in the extension and forced the last deadlock in the battle for first place in Pool A.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

TanHoldings' Douglas Schmidt drives against Joeten's Kelvin Fitial during the fourth quarter of their game in the JEM/Mobil caging last Monday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Schmidt saved the day for TanHoldings after his team bungled a double-digit lead in the first quarter, while Joeten patiently fought back and nearly stole the victory in the highly intense match that saw the ejection of Lerio Pagarao and Sid Quan.

The two players were ordered out of the playing court for second motion at the 4:56 mark of the fourth canto with TanHoldings ahead, 69-65. The incident stemmed from the hard foul called on TanHoldings' Pagarao against Quan, who was underneath the basket and made the shot, and fell on the floor. When he got up, Quan pushed Pagarao and the latter appeared to be charging at the former but was pacified by Kelvin Fitial. Soon, players from both benches entered the court, but the referees quickly stepped in and prevented the confronta-

See TANHOLDINGS on Page 26

Agape, MBA enter semis

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Agape Christian School's Bao Heng goes up for an off-balance shot against two Grace Christian Academy defenders during their playoff game in the private school caging yesterday at the ACS court in Middle Road.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Agape Christian School and Marianas Baptist Academy gained semis berths in the boys middle school division of the 2016-2017 Commonwealth Coalition of Private School Association Basketball League after eliminating their playoff foes yesterday.

Agape dominated Grace Christian Academy, 55-26, in their quarterfinal match yesterday at the former's home court in Middle Road, while MBA downed Seventh Day Adventist, 21-12, at the latter's turf in Chalan Kiya.

Yang Chenxuan and siblings Tychicus and Silas Xu teamed up in powering Agape to the easy victory that put last year's finalist a step closer to a return trip to the championship game. Chenxuan scored 17 points, while Silas and Tychicus chipped in 16 and 14, respectively.

All three Agape gunners scored right in the first quarter, lifting the Torchbearers to a double-digit lead against the Eagles, 15-5. GCA, which finished the season winless, was held to two field goals and continued to struggle offensively in the next two periods before scoring in twin digits in the final period.

Silas, who matched his brother's two field goals in the first canto, added 8 points

See AGAPE on Page 26